

QUEENSLAND.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

POLYNESIAN LABOUR

IN THE

COLONY OF QUEENSLAND.

(In continuation of [C.—6808] June 1892.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
April 1893.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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1893.

[C.—7000.] Price 6½d.

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1892. —	dealt with, that it is desirable to take the very serious measures which would be required to put a stop to the traffic, but that Lord Ripon is fully sensible that it devolves upon him to keep himself informed as far as possible of the way in which the recruiting is carried on, and he would be glad to receive any definite and trustworthy information from the Society on the subject. Correspondence between the Marquess of Ripon and Sir H. Norman.	
11	To Sir H. W. Norman.	Sept. 10	Requests to be furnished with reports on the health of the natives at the time they are sent home at the expiration of their agreement.	11
12	Sir H. W. Norman -	Nov. 1 (Rec. Dec. 12)	Transmits copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary, stating that instructions have been given to furnish reports on the health of returning labourers, as desired by the Secretary of State.	11
13	To Sir H. W. Norman.	Oct. 27 Extract.	Requests that he will furnish the Secretary of State from time to time with full particulars of the mode in which the labour trade is being conducted, and will notice in his reports any statement or comment of an unfavourable character made or quoted in the home press.	12
		1893. —		
14	Sir H. W. Norman -	Dec. 7, 1892 (Rec. Jan. 17 1893.)	Reports that the Chief Secretary has expressed his satisfaction at the views of Her Majesty's Government set forth in the letter to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and expresses gratification at the Secretary of State's appreciation of the manner in which he (the Governor) has furnished information.	13
14A	Ditto -	Jan. 19 (Rec. Feb. 27)	Transmits copy of a return of the Pacific Islanders' accounts in the Queensland Government Savings Bank, which is of interest, as showing that a number of the islanders have adopted a habit of thrift.	13
15	Ditto -	Jan. 19 (Rec. Feb. 27)	Transmits a pamphlet by the Reverend A. C. Smith, on the Kanaka Labour Question in defence of the traffic, and observes that these opinions are very much in accordance with those held by a large majority of ministers of religion who know anything of the subject.	14
			Regulations in reference to chest measurement.	
		1892. —		
15A	Ditto -	Aug. 11 (Rec. Sept. 19)	Encloses copy of a further instruction to Government Agents to ensure that no islander is recruited who is less than 32 inches round the chest, unless he is over 16 years of age.	14
16	Ditto -	Nov. 15 (Rec. Dec. 27)	Reports that the regulation as to chest measurement was found to be unworkable, and has been rescinded.	15
		1893. —		
17	To Sir H. W. Norman	Jan. 9	Observes that his Government will no doubt consider whether some other test of age and physical suitability than the chest measurement can be devised.	16

Serial No.	* From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1892.	Comments of "Brisbane Courier" on subject of recruiting.	
18	Sir H. W. Norman -	Aug. 16 (Rec. Sept. 26)	Transmits a cutting from the "Brisbane Courier," in which it is asserted that the Natives of the New Hebrides rather rejoice than otherwise at the prospect of being again employed in Queensland.	16
			The Bishop of Tasmania on the question.	
19	To Sir R. G. C. Hamilton (Tasmania).	Dec. 9	Requests, if the statement made in a telegram to the "Times" as to the alteration of the Bishop of Tasmania's views is correct, to be favoured with the result of his experiences and with the views he has arrived at.	17
20	Sir H. W. Norman -	Nov. 25 (Rec. Dec. 31)	Transmits copy of a letter from the Bishop of Tasmania, giving his impressions of the labour traffic derived from a recent tour through the Pacific Islands.	18
45	Acting Governor Sir W. L. Dobson (Tasmania).	Mar. 4 (Rec. Apr. 7,*)	Ditto - - - - -	61
46	To Acting Governor Sir W. L. Dobson.	Apr. 11	Requests that the Bishop of Tasmania may be thanked for his letter.	62
			Protests of, and replies to, various bodies in regard to the renewal of the traffic.	
21	The Presbyterian Church of Victoria.	May 25 (Rec. July 14)	Transmits a resolution of the Commission of the General Assembly protesting against the renewal of the labour traffic.	20
22	The Earl of Hopetoun (Victoria).	June 6 (Rec. July 14)	Transmits a petition from the Trades Hall Council of Melbourne praying for the disallowance of the Queensland Kanaka Labour Act.	21
23	To the Earl of Hopetoun (Victoria).	July 28	Requests that the Trades Hall Council and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church may be informed that the views of Her Majesty's Government have been fully stated in both Houses of Parliament.	21
24	Sir H. W. Norman -	Aug. 11 (Rec. Sept. 19)	Transmits copy of a letter from the New Hebrides Mission protesting against the renewal of the Polynesian labour traffic, with a copy of Sir S. Griffith's reply.	22
25	Sir J. B. Thurston (High Commissioner for the Western Pacific).	Aug. 25 (Rec. Nov. 1)	Transmits copy of a letter from the New Hebrides Mission Synod, protesting against the renewal of the labour traffic, and expresses the opinion that a strict enforcement of the regulations is incompatible with the recruitment of any large number of labourers.	24
26	To Sir J. B. Thurston	Nov. 7	Transmits copy of a letter to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, which explains the views and position of the Secretary of State upon the subject.	25
27	The "Times" -	Oct. 27	Correspondence between the London Missionary Society and Sir S. W. Griffith on the subject of the labour traffic.	25
28	Sir Wm. MacGregor (British New Guinea.)	Sept. 27 (Rec. Nov. 28)	Transmits resolutions of the District Committee of the London Missionary Society disapproving the revival of the labour trade.	28

* This Despatch was received after the Blue Book was made up.

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
		1892.	Reports by Sir H. Norman on the voyages of various recruiting vessels.	
29	Sir H. W. Norman -	July 16 (Rec. Aug. 29)	Transmits particulars of the number, &c. of returned islanders who recently left Queensland in the s.s. "Para" and "Mary."	29
30	Ditto - -	Oct. 14 (Rec. Nov. 22)	Reports on the satisfactory appearance and condition of a party of 86 islanders brought to Brisbane in the "Para" labour vessel.	31
31	Ditto - -	Nov. 25 (Rec. Dec. 31)	Transmits copy of the reports on the voyage of the labour vessel "Para."	32
32	Ditto - -	Oct. 1 (Rec. Nov. 14)	Reports the favourable results of his inspection of the "Archimedes" and "Lochiel," two vessels fitted out for the labour traffic.	33
33	Ditto - -	Oct. 14 (Rec. Nov. 22)	Transmits a copy of the license, and of a return of the labour vessel "Lochiel," which left for the New Hebrides and Solomon Islands on 7th October.	33
34	Ditto - -	Oct. 29 (Rec. Dec. 12)	Transmits a newspaper extract, giving particulars of the voyage of the "Ariel," which has arrived at Bundaberg with recruits.	35
35	Ditto - -	Nov. 18 (Rec. Dec. 27)	Transmits copy of a report by the Immigration Agent on the cruise of the labour vessel "Ariel."	36
		1893.		
36	Ditto - -	Nov. 29, 1892 (Rec. Jan. 9, 1893)	Transmits copy of a report on the voyage of the labour vessel "May."	37
37	Ditto - -	Dec. 15, 1892 (Rec. Jan. 23, 1893)	Transmits a newspaper report of the voyage of the labour vessel "Empreza."	40
38	Ditto - -	Dec. 22, 1892 (Rec. Jan. 30, 1893)	Transmits the report of the Government Agent on the cruise of the "Helena" labour vessel.	41
39	Ditto - -	Jan. 7 (Rec. Feb. 20)	Transmits a newspaper report of the voyage of the "Foam," which illustrates the risks and inconveniences attending the traffic.	43
40	Ditto - -	Jan. 19 (Rec. Feb. 27)	Reports the return of the labour vessel "Foam" with 102 labour recruits, and encloses copy of the report of her recent cruise.	44
41	Ditto - -	Jan. 20 (Rec. Mar. 4)	Transmits copy of the report of the Government Agent on the voyage of the "Foam."	46
42	To Lieut.-Governor Sir F. M. Darley (New South Wales).	Mar. 9	Calls attention to a statement made in a recent report by the Government Agent on the labour vessel "Foam," to the effect that during a visit to Aoba of the "Mary Anderson" of Sydney the Natives of the place were all drunk, and suggests that inquiry should be made.	47
43	Sir H. W. Norman -	Jan. 20 (Rec. Mar. 4)	Transmits copies of reports on the voyage of the "Empreza."	48
44	Ditto - -	Jan. 24 (Rec. Mar. 4)	Transmits copies of the licence and return and the health officer's certificate of the "Empreza," which left Brisbane on the 14th January with return labourers.	58
(For Nos. 45 and 46, see after No. 20.)				

QUEENSLAND.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

POLYNESIAN LABOUR

IN THE

COLONY OF QUEENSLAND.

No. 1.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received July 27, 1892.)

[*Answered by No. 2.*]

MY LORD,

Government House, Brisbane, June 15, 1892.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch dated the 3rd May 1892,* in acknowledgment of my Despatch of the 13th February last,† with its enclosure, respecting the question of re-introducing Polynesian labour into Queensland, and I have forwarded a copy of the Despatch to the Chief Secretary for the information of my Ministers.

2. I have not yet received from Sir Samuel Griffith any observations upon your Lordship's Despatch, but I may at once offer certain remarks upon the observations of your Lordship, contained in the Despatch under acknowledgment.

3. Your Lordship has learned from the press that the Act permitting the resumption of Polynesian immigration has been passed by both Houses of Parliament, and has received my assent, and you trust that it contains complete provision for the protection of the Natives, both during their conveyance to and from the Colony and when at work in the plantations, so as to prevent the recurrence of those regrettable abuses which were, on some occasions, perpetrated before the labour traffic was prohibited. Your Lordship also remarks that the great importance of the subject will have caused this Government to give full consideration to the method by which such abuses may best be prevented in the future, and you await with interest a copy of the Act, and my report upon the regulations which are either embodied in it or to be made under it.

* LORD KNUTSFORD to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 3, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 13th of February, with its enclosure respecting the question of re-introducing Polynesian labour in Queensland.

I observe that it is stated in the press that the Act permitting the resumption of Polynesian immigration has been passed by both Houses of the Queensland Parliament and has received your assent, and I trust that it contains complete provision for the protection of the Natives both during their conveyance to and from the Colony and when at work on the plantations, so as to prevent the recurrence of those regrettable abuses which were on some occasions perpetrated before the labour traffic was prohibited.

The great importance of the subject will no doubt have caused your Government to give full consideration to the methods by which such abuses may best be prevented, and I shall await with interest a copy of the Act and your report upon the regulations which are either embodied in it or to be made under it.

Sir H. W. Norman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LORD KNUTSFORD.

† No. 1 in [C.—6686], May 1892.

4. My Despatches* noted in the margin have fully informed your Lordship of all that has been done here with respect to the re-introduction of Polynesian labour, and your Lordship will have learned that the new Act was passed, not to supersede the original Act of 1880, which was deemed sufficiently stringent, but to re-open immigration of the Islanders which had been put a stop to from the end of 1890, under the old law, and under a new code of regulations, which it is hoped will be efficacious, and which can be amended, from time to time, if amendment seems desirable.

5. With reference to the remark of your Lordship as to the importance of making complete provision for the protection of the Natives, both during their conveyance to and from the Colony and when at work in the plantations, I would observe that during the three years I have been here I have never heard of any case of ill-treatment or of injustice to the Islanders working in Queensland, and the irregularities in recruitment have been very few, and not of a nature which could be ascribed to defects of regulations. If under the existing law and regulations and instructions any irregularities or abuses are committed, it will be due to breach of duty on the part of the Government agents or commanders of vessels which will be promptly dealt with, while every care will be exercised in the selection of the agents in the first instance.

6. In conclusion I would remark that I do not gather that your Lordship objects to my having assented to the Bill, but I may state that my reasons for assenting were, briefly, that I concurred in the object of the Bill; that the Solicitor-General certified that there was no objection to my giving assent to it, and that I was not required, under the provisions of the Constitution or any other Act or Royal Instructions, to withhold assent or to reserve it for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure; and lastly, that my reserving assent might have led to political difficulties in the Colony. I may add that the Act of 1880 was assented to by the then Governor, without objection to his doing so being taken by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Right Hon.
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 2.

LORD KNUTSFORD to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

SIR, Downing Street, August 5, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 15th of June,† in connexion with the renewal of Polynesian immigration by Queensland.

You are correct in believing that I did not think it necessary that the Bill removing the prohibition upon such immigration should have been reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

Sir Henry Norman, G.C.B.

No. 3.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received July 27, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,
June 16, 1892.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to the ninth paragraph of my Despatch of the 23rd ultimo,‡ I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Despatch from his Excellency Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Scott acknowledging the receipt of copies of the Pacific Island Labourers' Act and of the regulations and instructions issued under the

* Nos. 2, 7, and 8 in [C.—6686], and Nos. 11, 14, and 15 in [C.—6808]. † No. 1.
‡ No. 14 in [C.—6808], June 1892. "9. In sending copies of the new Rules and Regulations to the naval Commander-in-Chief, I shall ask his Excellency to be so good as to cause me to receive as promptly as may be possible any reports made by Naval Officers to him with respect to defects in the Regulations or abuse in working under them."

law, and informing me that officers commanding Her Majesty's ships in the islands have standing orders to supervise the labour traffic, and that any abuses or suggestions reported by naval officers will be forwarded without delay.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 3.

SIR,

"Orlando," at Adelaide, June 9, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of 25th ultimo enclosing the following documents and to thank you for the same:—

Six copies of the Act of the Queensland Parliament "to amend the Pacific Island "Labourers' Acts of 1880-85"; and

Six copies of the regulations under the above Act, and instructions to Government Agents employed on the labour vessels.

2. Officers commanding Her Majesty's ships in the islands have standing orders to supervise the labour traffic, and any abuses or suggestions reported by naval officers, I shall have the honour of forwarding without delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. T. SCOTT,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
General Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.
Queensland.

No. 4.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received August 15, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,

MY LORD,

July 5, 1892.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 26th May last,* paragraph 2, in which I stated that in forwarding a copy of the recent Act passed by the Queensland Parliament respecting the recruitment of Pacific Island labour, and of the Regulations made thereunder, I requested the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to bring promptly to my notice any abuses which might arise, I have the honour to report that I have now received a Despatch from his Excellency acknowledging these documents, and stating "In the event of any abuse in connexion with the recruiting of Pacific Islanders "for service in Queensland coming to my notice, I shall not fail in communicating with "your Excellency at the earliest possible moment."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

* No. 15 in [C.—6808], June 1892. "2. I have expressed to his Excellency my hope that under the new "Regulations and Instructions, and by a careful selection of Government agents for labour vessels, abuses in "recruitment of the Islanders will rarely arise, and I have requested that, if any abuses come to his knowledge, "he will promptly inform me of the same in order that this Government may take early measures for prevention "and correction."

No. 5.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received August 29, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,
July 20, 1892.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch dated the 20th May 1892,* I do myself the honour to enclose, for the information of your Lordship, six copies of two notifications which have been published in a supplement to the "Queensland Gazette," and which have been issued in pursuance of the Pacific Island Labourers' Acts, 1880-92, prohibiting the recruitment of Pacific Island labourers at the Santa Cruz Islands, at the island of Tongoa, and at any place or island within the sphere of influence of Germany within the Western Pacific.

2. These notifications renew the prohibitions under Regulation No. 8 of the repealed regulations dated successively 27th October 1886, 23rd February 1888, and 25th November 1890.

3. Copies of the notifications will be sent to their Excellencies the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific and the Rear-Admiral on the Australian station.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
July 11, 1892.

"The PACIFIC ISLANDS LABOURERS' ACTS, 1880-1892."

NOTICE.

WHEREAS by Regulation No. 19 of the regulations made in pursuance of the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts, and published in the "Gazette" of the 21st May 1892, it is provided that the Minister may, by a general direction published in the "Gazette," or by a special direction given on granting a license in respect of any particular ship, forbid the recruiting of labourers at any specified island or islands, and that Government Agents are required to see that all such directions are obeyed: Now, therefore, I, the Honourable Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Chief Secretary of Queensland, being the Minister charged with the execution of the said Acts, do forbid the recruiting of Pacific Island labourers at the group known as the Santa Cruz Islands, and at the Island of Tongoa, in the New Hebrides; and all Government Agents and masters of labour vessels are required to take notice of this direction, and to see that the same is obeyed.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
July 11, 1892.

"The PACIFIC ISLAND LABOURERS' ACTS, 1880-1892."

NOTICE.

WHEREAS by regulation No. 19 of the regulations made in pursuance of the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts, and published in the "Gazette" of the 21st May 1892, it is provided that the Minister may, by a general direction published in the "Gazette," or by a special direction given on granting a license in respect of any particular ship, forbid the recruiting of labourers at any specified island or islands, and that

* No. 11 in [C.—6808], June 1892.

Government Agents are required to see that all such directions are obeyed: Now, therefore, I, the Honourable Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Chief Secretary of Queensland, being the Minister charged with the execution of the said Acts, do forbid the recruiting of Pacific Island labourers at any place or island within the German sphere of influence in the Western Pacific, that is to say, any place or island lying to the west, north-west, or north of the conventional line of demarcation agreed upon by the declaration made by the Governments of Great Britain and the German Empire, and signed at Berlin on the 6th of April 1886, and which line of demarcation is as follows:—

Starting from the north-east coast of New Guinea at a point near Mitre Rock, on the 8th parallel of south latitude, being the boundary between the German and British Possessions on that coast, and following that parallel to its intersection with the 154th degree of east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in $7^{\circ} 15'$ south latitude, and $155^{\circ} 25'$ east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in $7^{\circ} 15'$ south latitude, and $155^{\circ} 35'$ east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in $7^{\circ} 25'$ south latitude and $156^{\circ} 40'$ east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in $8^{\circ} 50'$ south latitude and $159^{\circ} 50'$ east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate 6° north latitude and $170^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude; and thence by a line to a point situate in 15° north latitude and $173^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude.

And all Government Agents and masters of labour vessels are required to take notice of this direction, and to see that the same is obeyed.

S. W. GRIFFITH.

No. 6.

LORD KNUTSFORD to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

[*Answered by Nos. 7 and 8.*]

SIR,

Downing Street, May 19, 1892.

I ENCLOSE an extract from a question asked in the House of Commons on the 17th instant by Mr. Samuel Smith, in which reference is made to certain statements attributed to Mr. Hume Nisbet and Dr. Paton upon the subject of the Polynesian labour traffic.

I should be glad if you could obtain from your Government and forward to me a report upon the matters to which these statements relate.

Governor Sir H. Norman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

Enclosure in No. 6.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH:—To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the statements by Mr. Hume Nisbet that in 1886 a labour-vessel came into the Maryborough river “deluged with blood and filled with wounded men through a rising of the cargo on board;” and that violence and ravishments are perpetrated by the lawless crews of the labour-vessels upon the almost nude native women whom they convey to the labour plantations.

Whether he has seen Dr. Paton’s statement made in 1889, that at a hospital on the Queensland plantations which he visited, he found the patients to be nothing but native women and girls about to be confined in child-bearing, and that many white children were born by them; and that multitudes of native women died at the Queensland plantation hospitals from abuse on the plantations.

No. 7.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received September 14, 1892.)

[Further Report, No. 8.]

Government House, Brisbane,

August 4, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, dated the 19th May 1892,* in which you ask me to report upon a question asked in the House of Commons on the 17th May with respect to certain statements attributed to Mr. Hume Nisbet and Doctor Paton upon the subject of the Polynesian labour traffic.

2. I now forward for the information of your Lordship copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary of Queensland, dated the 22nd July, enclosing copy of a report from the Immigration Agent, dated the 14th idem, upon the matter referred to in your Despatch.

3. Your Lordship will see that Sir Samuel Griffith considers the statements attributed to Mr. Hume Nisbet and Doctor Paton are so grossly exaggerated as to be unworthy of serious consideration. From all I have heard and seen of the treatment of Pacific Islanders since I arrived here, more than three years ago, I am led to agree with the Chief Secretary, and I consider the statements referred to in the question of Mr. Samuel Smith to be incredible.

4. The name of the hospital said to have been visited by Doctor Paton in 1889 is not stated nor is the date of his visit mentioned, nor is it alleged that he made any representation to the Queensland Government with respect to the discreditable circumstances he is said to have found to exist in this hospital.

5. I have thought it right to ask the Chief Secretary whether there is any trace of a report by Doctor Paton on this matter, but I will not detain this Despatch for his reply.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,

July 22, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of a copy of Lord Knutsford's Despatch, Queensland, No. 39, of the 19th of May last, enclosing an extract from a question asked in the House of Commons on the 17th of the month by Mr. Samuel Smith, in which reference is made to certain statements attributed to Mr. Hume Nisbet and Dr. Paton upon the subject of the Polynesian labour traffic, and asking for a report from this Government upon the matters to which these statements relate.

I have now the honour to enclose for your Excellency's information a report from the Immigration Agent, to whom I referred the extract for inquiry and report.

For myself I desire to add to this report that having had upwards of six years official experience at the head of the department to which the Pacific Island labour traffic has been attached, I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, the statements attributed to Mr. Hume Nisbet are so grossly exaggerated as to be unworthy of serious consideration.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Governor.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

Immigration Office, Brisbane,

July 14, 1892.

SIR,

IN reply to the accompanying extract from a question asked in the House of Commons on the 17th of May last by Mr. Samuel Smith, wherein reference is made to certain statements attributed to Mr. Hume Nisbet and Dr. Paton upon the subject of the Polynesian labour traffic, I have the honour to report as follows:—

1. I have had the official records of the Pacific Island Department carefully searched, and there is nothing whatever to show that a labour vessel came into the Maryborough

River in 1886 "deluged with blood and filled with wounded men through a rising of the cargo," and I am quite certain that no such event could possibly have occurred without a full and searching inquiry having been held.

In May 1886 a labour ship called "The Young Dick," while recruiting islanders for Maryborough, was surprised and attacked by natives from off the island of Malayta in the Solomon Group.

An inquiry was held at Maryborough on the return of the "Young Dick," and it appears that while anchored in Sirago Bay, off Malayta, the ship was boarded by numbers of natives, who at first appeared friendly, and then, without any provocation, suddenly made a murderous attack upon and killed the Government Agent, the sailmaker, the cook, the carpenter, and one native recruit, and it was only by the determined resistance of the mate and a seaman, the only other Europeans on board at the time, that the natives were repulsed and driven off the ship. There were 13 recruits on board at the time of the attack, but they were apparently too frightened of the attacking party to take any action in the matter.

The police magistrate at Maryborough, before whom the inquiry was held, stated in his report:—"According to the evidence the attack was a preconcerted one, not the result of sudden excitement."

With regard to the statement that "violence and ravishments are perpetrated by the lawless crews of the labour vessels upon the almost nude native women," I can only say that this statement is not founded on fact. The members of crews employed on labour vessels are as law abiding as any other seamen, and, under the regulations, no officer could be employed unless he produced satisfactory certificates of character. Each vessel carries a Government Agent. Under the regulations in force since 1884 a native woman could not be recruited without her husband, and, in case of ill-treatment, both he and his wife could easily appeal to and obtain immediate assistance from the Government Agent, who would bring to justice the perpetrator of any deed of violence.

2. With reference to Dr. Paton's statement made in 1884, "That at a hospital on the Queensland plantations which he visited he found the patients to be nothing but native women and girls about to be confined in child bearing and that many white children were born by them," I have to state that since 1884 no Polynesian women have been introduced to the Colony without their husbands. On the plantations the women always reside with their husbands, and therefore child bearing would naturally be expected, and it is obvious that the children could not be born white. As to the multitudes of native women who Dr. Paton alleged died on the Queensland plantations hospitals, from abuse on the plantations, I beg to submit hereunder a return from which it will be observed that only 157 women have died in Queensland during the period from 1886 to 1891, or an average for the five years of about 11 per cent., or a little over 2 per cent. per annum.

Census	-	1886, adult Polynesian females	-	921
Introduced from 1886 to 1891	"	"	-	863
			-	1784
Returned to their islands, 1886	}	"	"	-
to 1891				
In the Colony, census 1891	"	"	-	745
			-	1627
Deaths	"	"	-	157

These women were distributed with their husbands amongst about 200 plantations. They reside on the plantations with their husbands.

In each district where islanders are employed, there is a Government Inspector, who constantly visits the plantations for the express purpose of seeing if the islanders are properly treated.

Any ill-treatment or abuse of a woman would certainly be at once brought under his notice, either by the woman herself or her husband, and prompt measures would be taken to punish an offender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

The Under Colonial Secretary.

No. 8.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received September 26, 1892.)

MY LORD,

Government House, Brisbane,

August 16, 1892.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 4th instant,* and with special reference to paragraphs 4 and 5 of that Despatch, I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Sir Samuel Griffith now states that he is in a position to state with confidence that Doctor Paton never made any report to the Government about his alleged discoveries as referred to in your Despatch of the 19th May 1892.†

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

No. 9.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY to COLONIAL
OFFICE. (Received September 15, 1892.)

(Delayed in transmission.)

[Answered by No. 10.]

55, New Broad Street, London,

MY LORD,

September 2, 1892.

THE Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society have seen with much misgiving the announcement contained in Lord Knutsford's Despatch to the Governor of Queensland that "Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise Her power of disallowance with respect to the Queensland Act No. 38 of 1892, entitled 'An Act to further amend the Pacific Island Labourers' Acts, 1880-1885.'"

The experience of this Society during the long period in which the Polynesian traffic has been in existence has invariably shown that no precautions suffice to divest the trade of some of its most objectionable features.

In 1872 Her Majesty in Her gracious speech at the opening of Parliament pronounced this Polynesian traffic to be dishonouring to the name of the British Empire. Her Majesty said:

"The slave trade, and practices scarcely to be distinguished from slave trading, still pursued in more than one quarter of the world, continue to attract the attention of my Government. In the South Sea Islands the name of the British Empire is even now dishonoured by the connexion of some of my subjects with these nefarious practices; and in one of them the murder of an exemplary prelate has cast fresh light upon some of their baneful consequences. A Bill will be presented to you for the purpose of facilitating the trial of offences of this class in Australasia, and endeavours will be made to increase, in other forms, the means of counteraction."

The Committee have reason to fear that, although restrictions for regulating the Polynesian labour traffic may have had some effect in preventing some of the grosser and more open abuses by which it was formerly accompanied, no safeguards can possibly do away with the evils connected with the recruiting of ignorant and half-savage labourers in a region where so many small islands lie scattered, inhabited as they are by populations which, though contiguous, are often hostile to each other, and speak different languages, with the whole of which no Government agent can be expected to be conversant.

The Committee now respectfully beg to call your Lordship's attention to the enclosed copy of a memorial forwarded by them to the Marquis of Salisbury in June last‡ (which has already appeared in the papers recently presented to Parliament on this subject), and also to a small pamphlet§ containing copies of various letters, &c., expressing the strong feeling that exists in nearly all the Australian Colonies and in this country against every form of servile labour in the Colony of Queensland.

* No. 7.

† No. 6.

‡ No. 7 in [C.—6808], June 1892

§ Not printed.

The Committee would earnestly entreat Her Majesty's Government to take measures to at once put a stop to a traffic which Her Majesty declared could "scarcely be distinguished from the slave trade."

On behalf of the Committee,

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. H. ALLEN,

Secretary.

To the Right Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,

&c. &c., &c.,

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

No. 10.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY
SOCIETY.

SIR,

Downing Street, October 7, 1892.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd ult.,* respecting the renewal of the introduction of Polynesian labourers into the Colony of Queensland.

You express the misgiving with which your Society has seen the announcement that Her Majesty was not advised by the late administration to exercise Her power of disallowance in respect of the Queensland Act which removed the prohibition imposed on such introduction by a previous Act of the Colony.

I am to state in reply that Lord Ripon is sensible of the force of the objections urged by the Anti-Slavery Society against the practice of recruiting labourers in the South Seas, and sympathises with the motives which cause the Society to desire that the practice should be put a stop to. If indeed the question to be determined by Her Majesty's Government were the general one: whether the recruiting of labourers in the South Seas should be prevented, and if it were practical to prevent it, his Lordship would be disposed to hold that the best or at all events, the safest course, in the interests of the Natives, would be to prohibit such recruiting altogether.

The question, however, does not come before Her Majesty's Government in that shape, as I am to proceed to explain, and the matter cannot be disposed of entirely on general principles.

In the first place, the Pacific Islanders Protection Acts, passed by the Parliament of this country in 1872 and 1875, enable the master of any British vessel to obtain from the Governor of any Australasian Colony, including Fiji, a license to carry labourers from any island in the Western Pacific to any Australasian Colony. The only condition named in the Acts for the issue of a license in this manner is the giving of a bond of a certain value.

If, therefore, the issue of such licenses in Queensland were stopped, it would still be open to the master of a Queensland recruiting vessel to apply for a license in another Colony. The result would be objectionable, for when a license to carry labourers is granted in Queensland the applicant has to comply with a number of conditions framed with a view to protecting the labourers at the time of recruitment and during the voyage, whereas in other Colonies he need only comply with the solitary condition specified in the Imperial Acts, or (where there is a local law on the subject) with conditions which are much less full and stringent than in Queensland.

Your Society will therefore see that the existence of the Imperial Acts is a factor in the case which must be taken into account. It is, of course, possible to reply that it would be open to Her Majesty's Government to propose the repeal of these Acts, but, apart from the point that a very serious and thoroughly demonstrable case would be required to justify Her Majesty's Government in making such a proposition to Parliament, it must be remembered that, Parliament having dealt with the matter, and having established a general rule which has been the basis of the practice in the Australasian Colonies and the Western Pacific for 20 years, the repeal of the Acts would be a disturbance of well-settled conditions as to which the Colonies would be entitled to have a voice.

The Acts were passed shortly after and in consequence of certain very serious and notorious outrages in the South Seas. They placed the recruiting on a new and legalised footing, but, as has been observed, they require the performance of only one condition, which in itself is not effective to prevent abuses. The Queensland Legislature, however, endeavoured to supply the deficiencies in these Acts. The subject was not one which it was easy to deal with by statutes or regulations until considerable practical experience had been acquired by the executive, and no doubt the first attempts to make proper provisions for the regulation of the trade were inadequate. But in 1884 a code of regulations was issued, under a statutory authority, which remained in force until the trade was temporarily suspended at the end of 1890.

These regulations, with corresponding instructions to the Government agents who accompany the vessels, are printed in the parliamentary paper, C.—6686, and Lord Ripon believes that a perusal of them will show that the local Government dealt with the subject in a careful and earnest spirit.

It is, of course, another question whether these provisions of the law were, in practice, effectual for their purpose. But it seems only fair, in considering this question, to have special regard to the date at which these regulations came into force, and to the manner in which the labour trade was carried on under them. It would not be just to the Colonial Government to maintain that, because abuses occurred in the earlier days of the traffic, the recruiting cannot be carried on without such abuses when the conditions have been altered. It could not be expected that the Colonial Legislature should arrive at a proper and sufficient code of provisions until after much time and many inquiries, and the inherent difficulties of the case, and the want of previous experience and of exact precedents, must be taken into account in judging of the earlier failures to prevent malpractices.

In 1885 a report was issued by a Royal Commission appointed by the Queensland Government themselves, which showed that grave offences against the law had been recently committed by certain recruiting vessels. These cases occurred about the time or very shortly after the issue of the regulations of 1884, but before there had been time for shipmasters to understand the new conditions imposed upon them and to provide for their performance. Since the report of the Royal Commission of 1885 no authenticated case of any serious abuse has been brought to light, although labourers were brought to the Colony in increasing numbers from that year up to and during 1891. Her Majesty's Government have special means of acquiring information in regard to the traffic, inasmuch as Her Majesty's ships are constantly visiting the various islands of the Western Pacific, and the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific has from time to time obtained information from various sources as to the affairs of the islands in those seas. Between 1885 and 1891 several cases of outrages and malpractices were reported upon. But amongst these cases there was no instance of any outrage upon or injustice to Natives by a Queensland recruiting vessel.

The general allegations of malpractices in connexion with this labour traffic made by your Society and others appear to refer to the period before 1885; and it is not denied that during that period grave abuses occurred. But a past state of things is not a sufficient ground for putting a stop to a trade which in recent years it has been found possible, as far as Her Majesty's Government have ascertained, to conduct without abuse.

The regulations and instructions in question were revised and important additions were made to them by the Colonial Government this year directly after the Act removing the suspension of the traffic was passed. They are printed in the parliamentary paper, C.—6806, and constitute a full and careful code for the protection of the interests of the labourers both on board ship, while working on the plantations, and in connexion with their return to their homes. The Admiral in command of Her Majesty's ships on the Australian station was consulted in the preparation of them, and Her Majesty's naval officers will continue to watch their operation and to report upon any acts of lawlessness by the recruiters.

I am to observe, in the second place, that Her Majesty's Government could not prevent recruiting being carried on by other nations in the South Seas. Natives are at present frequently taken in foreign vessels to distant countries; and although Her Majesty's Government have no authentic information as to how such Natives are treated, and whether they are returned to their homes, they have reason to believe that labourers taken to Queensland, and who are subsequently, after the expiration of their term of service, returned to their homes, or entitled to be returned, are frequently desirous of being re-employed there, and that the Natives generally prefer the Colony as a place for work to any other country.

It may be, and Lord Ripon is disposed to think that it is, regrettable that Natives should leave their islands, to which in many cases they never return, and which, therefore, are on the road towards depopulation. But this fact is one which Her Majesty's Government cannot prevent, except by taking the serious step of annexing or establishing Her Majesty's protectorate over the islands. In these circumstances your Society will, perhaps, agree that it is probably to the advantage of the Polynesians that it should be open to those Natives who are attracted by the prospects which foreign employment holds out to them, and who probably would in many cases go abroad even if Queensland recruiting came to an end, to proceed to a British Colony in which the Government, in conjunction with public opinion, will carefully look after their interests and welfare.

Her Majesty's Government, therefore, do not consider, having regard to all the aspects of the case, they should override the decision come to by their predecessors, or that it is advisable to take the very serious measures which would be required to put a stop to the recruiting for Queensland. To this conclusion they are guided principally by the reasons above indicated; but it should also be borne in mind that the difficulty of interfering in such a matter is enhanced by the circumstance that an important self-governing Colony is affected, and that a large measure of the responsibility in such a matter has been transferred from the Government and Parliament in this country to Her Majesty's Government and the Legislature established by Imperial Acts in the Colony.

At the same time, Lord Ripon is fully sensible that it devolves upon him also to keep himself informed as far as possible of the way in which the recruiting is carried on, and with the help of Her Majesty's officers in the Western Pacific to cooperate with the Colonial Government in endeavouring to prevent the commission of any malpractices; and Her Majesty's Government have at present under their consideration the question of the means by which this can best be done. I am to add that Lord Ripon would be glad to receive at any time any definite information, coming from an authentic and trustworthy source, which might help Her Majesty's Government in this task.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

The Secretary to the
British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

No. 11.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

[Answered by No. 12.]

SIR,

Downing Street, September 10, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 16th of July,* transmitting a copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary with returns containing details as to the islanders who left Queensland in the vessels "Para" and "May."

I am glad to be furnished with particulars of this nature, but I should also be glad to know the details showing the health of the Natives at the time they are sent home at the expiration of their agreement as furnished by the medical officer at the port of departure under the 42nd Regulation.

I should feel obliged if you would cause me to be furnished regularly with copies of the medical officer's reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.

Sir Henry Norman.

No. 12.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received December 12, 1892.)

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Government House, Brisbane,
November 1, 1892.

IN reply to your Despatch of the 10th September last,† requesting to be supplied with further medical information respecting the condition of the Natives

* No. 29.

† No. 11.

recruited for employment in this Colony, I have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter which I have received from the Chief Secretary of Queensland on the subject.

The Most Hon. the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
October 31, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of a copy of Lord Ripon's Despatch of 10th September 1892, requesting that future returns, containing details as to Pacific Islanders returning to their islands in Queensland labour vessels, may include information as to their condition of health at the expiration of their term of agreement as furnished by the medical officer at the port of departure under the 42nd Regulation.

In compliance with your Excellency's request, I have caused the Immigration Agent to be instructed to furnish copies of the medical reports upon the return islanders, in addition to the returns which he has already been directed to supply, copies of which will be duly forwarded to your Excellency.

His Excellency
Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., &c., &c.,
Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

No. 13.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

[*Answered by No. 14.*]

(EXTRACT.)

Downing Street, October 27, 1892.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the recruiting of Polynesian labourers for Queensland, I have the honour to transmit to you copies of a letter* from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and of the reply† which I have caused to be returned to it on the subject.

The question will no doubt continue to attract attention in this country, and will probably be again adverted to in the next session of Parliament. Under these circumstances it is inevitable, in a controversial matter of this kind that allegations should be made occasionally which it is impossible either to verify or to disprove in this country at the time, but which make some effect on public opinion before a report can be obtained upon the exact facts from the place where the occurrences in question are supposed to have taken place. It is therefore very desirable that you should from time to time furnish me with full particulars of the mode in which the labour trade is being conducted, and that you should notice in your reports any statement or comment of an unfavourable character which may be telegraphed to Australia as having been made or quoted in the press of this country.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the care with which you have hitherto reported to my predecessor and myself upon this important subject.

Governor Sir H. Norman.

* No. 9.

† No. 10.

No. 14.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received January 17, 1893.)

(Confidential.)
MY LORD MARQUESS,

Government House, Brisbane,
December 7, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, dated the 27th October last,* on the subject of recruiting Polynesian labourers for Queensland, and enclosing copy of a letter which you have received from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and of the reply which your Lordship has caused to be sent to that letter.

2. I have thought it right to communicate your Despatch and its enclosure confidentially to the Chief Secretary of Queensland, and Sir Samuel Griffith has expressed to me his satisfaction at the view taken by your Lordship in this matter.

3. I quite appreciate the necessity for keeping your Lordship fully informed of the mode in which the traffic is conducted, and the expediency of noticing in my reports any statement or comment of an unfavourable character which may be telegraphed to Australia as having been made or quoted in the press of Great Britain, and I am gratified that your Lordship acknowledges the care with which I have hitherto reported to your predecessor and yourself upon the subject. I may mention, however, that the reports of this nature in the Press usually are of a very vague and indefinite character, or refer to events which occurred some years ago, and in both class of cases any real inquiry is useless.

4. Since the date of your Lordship's Despatch under acknowledgment, you will have received numerous Despatches from me, relative to Kanaka recruitment, and you will have been especially interested in the letter from the Bishop of Tasmania sent in my Despatch of the 25th ultimo,† which letter, with the concurrence of the Bishop and at the request of the Chief Secretary, I have caused to be published in the Brisbane newspapers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Most Honourable
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 14A.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 27, 1893.)

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Toowoomba, January 19, 1893.

I do myself the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Return of Pacific Islanders' Accounts in the Queensland Government Savings Bank, dated 30th December 1892.

I think this return will be interesting to your Lordship, showing, as it does, that a large number of these islanders have adopted a habit of thrift, and are able to save considerable sums out of their wages.

The Most Honourable
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

* No. 13.

† No. 20.

Enclosure in No. 14A.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

PACIFIC ISLANDERS' ACCOUNTS, 30th December 1892.

Place.	No. of Accounts.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Beenleigh - - - - -	132	1,523 1 6
Brisbane - - - - -	138	2,696 4 4
Bundaberg - - - - -	670	4,328 11 9
Cairns - - - - -	16	326 9 7
Geraldton - - - - -	176	717 17 7
Ingham - - - - -	168	1,409 18 5
Mackay - - - - -	1,154	6,643 15 11
Maryborough - - - - -	158	2,236 16 7
Port Douglas - - - - -	6	93 15 1
Rockhampton - - - - -	38	742 14 9
Townsville - - - - -	62	368 2 7
Sundry - - - - -	48	1,307 5 3
Total - - - - -	2,766	£22,394 13 4

The Treasury, Brisbane,
30th December 1892.

THOMAS W. WELLS,
Manager.

No. 15.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 27, 1893.)

Government House, Brisbane,
January 19, 1893.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I do myself the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a pamphlet* by the Rev. A. C. Smith, the convener of the Queensland Presbyterian Foreign Missions Committee, on the "Kanaka Labour Question, with special reference to Missionary Efforts in the Plantations of Queensland."

2. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the views expressed by Mr. Smith are very much in accord with those held by a large number, and probably by a large majority, of the ministers of all religious denominations in Queensland who have had any personal acquaintance with the condition of Pacific Island labourers employed on the plantations, and I need hardly repeat to your Lordship the opinions on the subject I have already on various occasions expressed with reference to the visits I have paid to estates as well as to labour vessels, but I may mention that during the 3½ years which I have spent in Queensland there has not been, as far as I am aware, any complaint preferred to the Government of ill treatment of Kanakas, nor do I recollect reading in the newspapers of any such case coming before a magistrate.

The Most Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

No. 15A.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received September 19, 1892.)

[Continued by No. 16.]

Government House, Brisbane,
August 11, 1892.

MY LORD,

I do myself the honour to forward, for the information of your Lordship, a printed copy of additional instructions, which were published in the Queensland

Government Gazette of the 4th instant, for the guidance of Government Agents appointed to accompany vessels licensed to carry Pacific Islanders.

2. It is hoped that these additional instructions will materially assist in preventing the occurrence of the irregularities referred to in clause 3 of the letter from Captain Davies, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "Royalist," copy of which was enclosed in my Despatch of the 21st March 1892.*

3. Spare printed copies of this regulation will be sent to your Lordship as soon as I can obtain them, and copies will be sent to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, and to the Naval Commander in Chief.

The Right Hon.
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 15A.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
August 4, 1892.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the following additional instructions for the guidance of Government Agents appointed to accompany vessels licensed to carry Pacific Islanders.

S. W. GRIFFITH.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNMENT AGENTS.

For the purpose of ascertaining the age of Islanders, the Government Agent, in addition to making such inquiries as may be necessary, is to measure each male islander offering for engagement. The measurement is to be taken round the breast, after expiration, and with the arms raised above the head as high as possible. If the measurement so taken is less than 32 inches, the Islander must be rejected, unless there are special reasons for believing him to be over the age of 16 years.

No. 16.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 27, 1892.)

[Answered by No. 17.]

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Government House, Brisbane,
November 15, 1892.

IN my Despatch of the 11th August last,† I forwarded, for the information of your predecessor, a printed copy of instructions to Government Agents, respecting the chest measurement of Pacific Island recruits.

I have now the honour to report that my Chief Secretary has informed me that this regulation has been found unworkable, the standard of 32 inches having been recommended by the medical officers on insufficient data.

It has therefore been found necessary to rescind this regulation, and notification of its rescission was published in the Government Gazette of the 5th instant.

The Most Hon.
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

* No. 2 in [C.-6686], May 1892.

† No. 15A.

No. 17.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR H. W. NORMAN.

SIR,

Downing Street, January 9, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 15th of November* reporting that the regulation respecting the chest measurement of Pacific Island recruits has been found unworkable, and has accordingly been rescinded.

I conclude that no other measurement or other test of age has been substituted at present, but your Government will, no doubt, consider whether one can be devised. A definite criterion of physical development is not only desirable in the interests of the Natives as preventing the employment of boys, but is also convenient to those employed in recruiting as furnishing a simple and legally approved mode of determining age and suitability.

Sir H. W. Norman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.

No. 18.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received September 26, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,

August 16, 1892.

MY LORD,

I do myself the honour to forward, for the information of your Lordship, a cutting from the "Brisbane Courier" of this date, which gives some idea of the feeling alleged to prevail in the New Hebrides, with respect to the resumption of the Pacific Island Labour Traffic.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 18.

CUTTING from the "BRISBANE COURIER" Newspaper, dated 16th August 1892.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

Vila, New Hebrides, July 18.

TWELVE months have already elapsed since my last letter under this heading without anything very momentous having happened, for, although the labour traffic has been resumed by your colony, and has created a great stir amongst you and all English-speaking peoples, those mostly interested, namely, the intended recruits themselves, received the news with Count Fosco's impenetrable calm. If any feeling at all was engendered it was one of pleasure at the prospect of once more enjoying the regular gastronomic delights of "bull makow," the equally certain tobacco, and other luxuries unknown in their native fastnesses, with endless yards of gay-coloured prints, turkey red, with their accompaniments of knives, tomahawks, and heterogeneous other articles at the end of their three years with which to sail back to their tribes like conquering heroes. I have myself heard many expressions of satisfaction from numbers of old "colonists" at the renewal of the traffic, and their prospective journey back to the old plantations in Bundaberg, Mackay, and the Johnstone River; one old grizzly patriarch recounting with great glee of the days of Townsville under "Bobbie Towns" (his own vernacular), when "spose he plenty work, him get plenty tobacco and rum some time; him good fellow man, Bobbie." Of course this latter was not plantation work, but I have heard a good many speak in laudatory terms of their treatment on existing plantations which, as this is not intended as an advertising par., I will not name. You will meet with some here and there, who probably shirked their work and loafed whenever possible, who will tell

you they got badly treated; but the bulk of them are ready to undertake their "bondage" (?) again of free will, and they have no need to be kidnapped or indeed offered much inducement to go and work on Queensland plantations. It is a far more difficult matter to persuade them to work in their own or neighbouring islands. Kidnapping is a thing of the past in this group—constant steam communication and other traffic rendered necessary by the ever-increasing number of white settlers all over it, with the new regulations and restrictions added, render that abuse well-nigh impossible. English men-of-war, besides two monthly steamers—A.U.S.N. and French company's—circulate over the entire archipelago, and kidnapping or other outrages would be too risky a process; there is not the slightest fear of any unwilling emigrant being introduced. There is one thing to be said, of course—that the traffic will tend in time to depopulate the islands, but it is not an unmixed evil, considering they do so little to develop the wonderful resources showered upon them by Mother Nature in her most bounteous mood. They are comparatively useless in the land of their birth; they have no industries; they only grow sufficient food for their own needs, with the small exception of the converts to the Presbyterian Church, who produce a little arrowroot and copra annually to assist in paying for their school books, Bibles, &c. No, the resumption of the labour traffic is no evil for the New Hebrides, and will be a great blessing to the Queensland sugar industry.

During the year a good many new traders have settled in the group, and may be said to be doing well in copra getting and planting. Our white population should now number over 350. The Australasian New Hebrides Company are gradually populating their lands, and one and all are praying for the millennium when the British flag shall float over the archipelago as its own.

On the fourteenth anniversary of the French Republic, the French New Hebrides Company held their annual native sports, at which there was a good muster of Natives from their own and neighbouring coffee plantations. By the way, the export of coffee reaches about 100 tons a year. Numbers of games were indulged in, and peace and harmony reigned around.

Banana planting has been actively engaged in during the twelve months, and several Fiji men are negotiating for land here to grow this most prolific fruit, attracted by the virgin richness of the soil. Noumea is now coming to the front as a consumer, and there is talk of a special steamer being put on for the conveyance of the fruit to that market.

Our progress is perhaps tortoiselike, but none the less sure.

No. 19.

The MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR R. G. C. HAMILTON (TASMANIA).

[See No. 20; Answered by No. 45.]

SIR,

Downing Street, December 9, 1892.

My attention has been called to a telegram which has appeared in the "Times" newspaper, dated Hobart, November 25, stating that the Bishop of Tasmania has recently returned from a cruise in the South Seas, in the course of which he formed certain opinions, founded on his own observations, with regard to the Kanaka labour traffic.

If this statement is correct, I have to request that you will inform Dr. Montgomery that I should be much obliged if he would favour me with the results of his experiences and with the views he has arrived at.

Governor Sir R. Hamilton,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.

No. 20.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 31, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,
November 25, 1892.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in July last I heard that the Right Reverend the Bishop of Tasmania was about to start on a visitation tour to the Pacific Islands, as the Bishop of Melanesia was absent from his diocese owing to severe indisposition.

2. I therefore ventured to request Dr. Montgomery to have the goodness to ascertain to the best of his power all circumstances attending the recruitment of labourers for Queensland in the Pacific Islands, and make any suggestions that might occur to him for the improvement of the traffic.

3. The Bishop most obligingly promised to bear my request in mind, and I have now received from him an account of what he has seen of the recruitment system, and a record of his impressions with respect to it.* I enclose, for the information of your Lordship, two copies of Bishop Montgomery's letter, and I trust that what he says will be, on the whole, considered satisfactory. You will observe that the Bishop says there is nothing of a private nature in his communication, and that I may make what use I like of it. I have therefore sent a copy of the letter to the Chief Secretary of Queensland for information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Most Honourable
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 20.

DEAR SIR HENRY,

S.S. "Rockton," November 14, 1892.

MY tour through the islands in the "Southern Cross" has terminated, and I think you would like me to put you in possession of my sentiments regarding the vexed question of the labour traffic. I may say that I have been ashore virtually on every island from the three most northern of the New Hebrides up to Ysobel in the Solomons, and I have had throughout my trip the privilege of the companionship and assistance of the clergy of the Melanesian Mission. I believe the sentiments I am about to express, though I have formed them independently, are those also of the majority of the clergy of the mission.

I began my tour somewhat prejudiced, upon the whole, against the resumption of recruiting in the islands by Queensland; experience leads me to the following conclusions:—

1. I imagined that natives were induced to engage themselves for Queensland whilst they were in ignorance of the real terms of the contract. This I believe to be an entirely erroneous conclusion. The lapse of time has altered the old conditions. Wherever I went, even upon the smallest and most inaccessible islands, such as Merig in the Banks group, I found returned labourers, and all details, whether of life on board the ship or in the plantations, were perfectly understood.

2. No complaint is made by the natives against the Queensland system, except that very natural one from the natives' point of view, of "too much hard work." It is conclusive of the fact that the old traditions of cruelty and deceit have entirely passed away.

If, then, I seemed to have proved to myself that the natives went of their own free will, and perfectly comprehending to what they were going, and were well treated on board the ships, I next addressed myself to the other objections which I had so often heard against the system.

(a.) That it depopulates the islands. I believe that in some places it has this tendency, but I cannot but put this result against the gradual extinction, under the influences of our mission, of infanticide. This counter current ought, I think, to restore the balance in due time.

But looking deeper into the question I was led to believe that life on some islands was not so desirable a thing for the native as some might suppose. Queensland must be a very bad place if it is worse than Malaua, for instance, which is still given up to the worst forms of cannibalism and to internecine wars. I specially allude to this island, because so many of the inhabitants recruit themselves. I think they are wise.

* See also Enclosure in No. 45.

Again, there are other islands which are practically waterless—where natives can rarely, if ever, bathe in fresh water or drink anything but cocoanut milk; and perhaps for this reason they are all subject to most horrible sores as, for example, in the Torres Group. A lifetime spent in such places is not an ideal existence.

(b.) It is alleged that the natives return worse than they went.

That many learn bad habits I can well believe. That many receive little personal attention, from the spiritual point of view, I can well understand, when I remember that their language is not understood; and also because I have found the same neglect of individuals in all sorts of parishes in completely Christian areas. But after making many inquiries, the exceptions are so numerous that the objection, in my opinion, does not hold good. In one place I learnt that out of 16 returned labourers 14 had taken their places again in their school, and had come back to their habits of worship generally, being indistinguishable from the rest of the community, except that they knew a little English.

In another island I heard that it was a returned labourer who begged for books in order to start a school, because hitherto there had been none, and he had put himself to serious inconvenience to qualify himself for his task.

In a third island I learnt that a man had swum out to the boat, because a landing could not be effected, in order to ask for books to teach his people; and he swam back triumphantly holding his papers over his head. This man was a returned labourer. One more example: Peter, the man who saved the life of the only sailor who escaped when Lieutenant Bower and the rest of his party were murdered, is now our teacher at Hongo in Florida; and he is a returned labourer. I could, of course, multiply instances, but I should take up too much time; the above have occurred to me as I write, without any reference to my books.

I know that many Christian people are striving every nerve to do a Christian's duty to the islanders in your plantations; and the natives do not all return depraved and spoilt.

(c.) Another point made is that these people are taken away from pure Christian influences to places of temptation, and that often it is the best scholar who is tempted away.

I believe it is true. I can give an instance which would move the sympathies of any man. In one of our islands a class of men who were being prepared for baptism went down to the shore to inspect a labour vessel, but with no intention whatever of enlisting themselves. However, a sudden impulse seized one of the number; he jumped into the boat, and was followed by the whole class. It was heartbreaking to the native clergyman. I can imagine what my own feelings would be were a whole class of candidates for Confirmation under my charge to be spirited away to some region where no one knew their language, and where they might get to know many people whose profession of Christianity might be even less than nominal.

Yet looking dispassionately at the whole question, it seems to me that Christian teaching predisposes many men to wish to see the world. You cannot open a man's eyes and expect at the same time that he will never wish to use them. It would appear to be unwise to take up an attitude of passive antagonism. It is better to accept the situation as a means of communication with that outer world which must sooner or later have become a reality to the islanders, and to strain every nerve to see that the regulations are adequate and are enforced. I do not speak of the manner in which these are carried out upon the mainland, for I know nothing of them; but, after going on board the "May" and the "Lochiel," on both of which ships I spent a long time, I am perfectly convinced that the boys are treated with the greatest kindness.

The very sight of the captain and the Government agent mixing with all on the ship, unarmed and on the best of terms with everyone, proves that your regulations are carried out in their spirit as well as in the letter.

Indeed, I have a better opinion of my countrymen in Queensland than to suppose that they will ever permit irregularities now that the conscience of the whole Continent has been stirred on account of the dreadful deeds of old. I believe that they realise that they are inviting to their shores those who may, in a real sense, be called the children of the world. Were they, either from thoughtlessness or any other reason, to intermit their vigilance, their crime would be as great as that of a man who deliberately invites boys and girls to his house and then permits anyone to take advantage of their inexperience to pollute their minds with evil. That is a crime which makes the blood boil when we think of it. If once the Colonies are awake to the grave responsibilities they incur in reopening this system from the point of view I have just indicated, their action may result in mutual advantage.

Many of the clergy with whom I was associated, in the Banks, Torres, and Solomon groups, do not wish to be like those fond but somewhat unwise parents who dare not let their children leave the old nest for fear of the evils awaiting them in the world. They are, on the contrary, explaining the system in order to prepare their people for the dangers of a land where civilisation may possibly exist in places where there may be little Christianity.

They believe that the Power that is working with them will sustain those who trust in Him. They believe that Queensland is after all a Christian country, and will do her duty.

My letter has run to a greater length than I expected, but the subject has interested me deeply, and therefore I have written fully. There is nothing of a private nature in my communication; pray make what use you like of it.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) H. H. TASMANIA.

I have purposely made no allusion to recruiting by other nations. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the methods and rules adopted by them.

No. 21.

The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received July 14, 1892.)

Assembly Hall, 167, Collins Street, Melbourne,
May 25, 1892.

MY LORD,

As instructed by the Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, I have the honour to forward to you an extract minute adopted at its meeting of the 5th instant, relative to the Kanaka labour traffic between Queensland and the New Hebrides.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE TAIT,
Clerk of Assembly.

To the Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Assembly Hall, Collins Street, May 5, 1892.

The Commission met pursuant to adjournment at 11 a.m. and was duly constituted.
Inter alia,

A report from the Foreign Mission Committee relative to the renewal of the Queensland Kanaka labour traffic was submitted by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch on behalf of the convenor.

The Rev. A. Stewart moved and the Rev. D. Paton seconded: "That in accordance with the desire of the Foreign Mission Committee, the Commission protests against the renewal of the Kanaka labour traffic between Queensland and the New Hebrides; and that this protest be transmitted to the Imperial authorities and the Government of Queensland." The motion was approved.

Extracted from the minutes of the Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria by—

May 23, 1892.

GEORGE TAIT,
Clerk.

No. 22.

The EARL OF HOPETOUN (VICTORIA) to LORD KNUTSFORD
(Received July 14, 1892.)

[Answered by No. 23.]

Government House, Melbourne,
June 6, 1892.

MY LORD,

AT the request of the members of the Trades Hall Council of this City, I have the honour to transmit a petition to the Queen praying that Her Majesty may disallow the Act of the Queensland Legislature recently passed permitting the importation and employment of Kanaka labour in that Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOPETOUN.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 22.

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY VICTORIA, QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN, EMPRESS
OF INDIA.

May it please Your Majesty.

THE members of the Trades Hall Council of the City of Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria, representing a very large number of workers in the above City and Colony desire most respectfully to direct Your Majesty's attention to an Act recently passed by the Legislature of the Colony of Queensland, permitting the importation and employment of Kanaka labour under certain conditions in that Colony.

The Council has reason to fear that under the title of labour under contract the employment of Kanakas will be little better than a modified form of slavery.

The members feel certain that it is not the desire of Your Majesty, or that of Your responsible advisers, that such a condition of affairs should be brought about in any part of Your Majesty's dominions, much less in a Colony which is fortunate enough to bear Your Majesty's title.

While assuring Your Majesty of the loyalty of the members of the Council to Your Majesty's throne and person they desire to enter an emphatic protest against the employment of South Sea Island labour in any form, and that Your Majesty will take such steps as to Your Majesty and Your Majesty's Ministers in Great Britain may seem necessary to disallow the said Act of the Queensland Legislature or to prevent the employment of Kanaka labour in that Colony.

We have, &c.
(Signed) JOSEPH WINTER, President,
DAVID BENNET, Secretary,
Trades Hall Council.

No. 23.

LORD KNUTSFORD to the EARL OF HOPETOUN (VICTORIA).

MY LORD,

Downing Street, July 28, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 6th ultimo.*

2. I have duly laid before the Queen the petition which accompanied it from the members of the Trades Hall Council of Melbourne praying that the Act recently passed by the Queensland Legislature removing the prohibition imposed by a previous Act upon the introduction of Polynesian labour into the Colony might be disallowed, and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the petition very graciously.

3. I request that you will inform the petitioners that I was unable to tender any advice to the Queen in the direction indicated by them as Her Majesty has already notified

through me Her intention not to exercise Her power of disallowance in respect of the Act.

4. The views of Her Majesty's Government have been fully expressed in both Houses of Parliament in respect of the policy embodied in the Queensland Act, and the statements made on the subject in the House of Commons on the 26th and 27th of May by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and by the First Lord of the Treasury will no doubt have been noticed by the petitioners, who will also be aware that a collection of papers [C.—6686] relating to the question has been laid before Parliament. A further collection of papers will reach you in due course.

5. I have also received from the clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria a letter dated Assembly Hall, 167, Collins Street, Melbourne, the 25th of May, forwarding a motion approved on the 5th of May by the Commission of the General Assembly condemning the renewal of the labour traffic from the New Hebrides into Queensland.

I request that in reply to this letter you will cause a communication to be addressed to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in the sense of the foregoing paragraphs of this Despatch.

The Earl of Hopetoun, G.C.M.G.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

No. 24.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received September 19, 1892.)

MY LORD,

Government House, Brisbane, August 11, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter from the Clerk of the New Hebrides Mission to Sir Samuel Griffith, dated the 7th June last, enclosing an extract from the Minutes of a recent meeting of the Synod containing a formal protest against the renewal by the Queensland Government of the Pacific Island labour traffic.

2. I also enclose the copy of Sir Samuel Griffith's reply, dated the 5th instant.

I have, &c.
The Right Hon. the Secretary of State (Signed) H. W. NORMAN.
for the Colonies.

Enclosure 1 in No. 24.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

DEAR SIR,

Aneityum, New Hebrides, June 7, 1892.

IT is with the deepest concern that we have heard of the renewal of the labour traffic by the Queensland Government, and at the meeting of our Mission Synod held yesterday we agreed to make the following protest, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose to you, and hope you will take the same into your careful consideration.

I have, &c.
Sir S. W. Griffith, (Signed) W. WATT, Clerk,
Queensland. New Hebrides Mission Synod.

MISSION CHURCH, Anelcanhat, Aneityum, New Hebrides, June 1892. Seventh Sederunt, which time and place the New Hebrides Mission Synod met and was duly constituted. *Inter alia* :—

The New Hebrides Mission Synod having heard of and witnessed the renewal of the labour traffic by the Queensland Government feels it to be its duty at this, its earliest opportunity, to protest against the Pacific Island labour traffic, for the following reasons :—

1. Although the Synod does not wish to dispute the contention that cheap labour is a necessity for the maintenance of the sugar industry in Queensland, yet the knowledge

possessed by every member of this Synod as to what the labour traffic is in these Islands, leads the Synod to affirm that this labour traffic cannot be carried on with justice to the Natives, nor with honour to the British nation.

2. That while the Queensland Government has pledged itself to prevent abuses connected with the labour traffic, yet the absence of civilised Government to protect the interests of the Natives, the settlers, and the missionaries makes recruiting without abuse an impossibility.

3. Further, because the deportation of the young and able-bodied Natives from the Islands prevents the development of industry, and sadly hinders the advancement of civilisation and Christianity in the group, and is a most powerful factor in its depopulation.

4. That the almost invariable practice of giving large presents to the persons recruited by the Natives as "purchase" money, and the transaction is therefore considered by the Natives as a traffic in human beings, and consequently it has a most demoralising effect on them.

That a copy of this Minute be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Premier of Queensland, the Governor of Fiji, the Conveners of the Foreign Mission Committees of all the Churches interested in this Mission, and the Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Extracted from the records of the New Hebrides Mission Synod by me,

June 17th, 1892.

W. WATT, Clerk of Synod.

Enclosure 2 in No. 24.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,

August 5, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th of June last, enclosing copy of a protest by the New Hebrides Mission Synod against the renewal of the Pacific Island labour traffic by the Queensland Government.

I have given the protest my careful consideration, but, while recognising that the opinions of the Mission Synod are entitled to very great weight, I think it right to inform them that the several objections to which they draw attention were fully considered and weighed by the Government, with the aid of information which appeared to them reliable, before coming to the conclusion to propose the renewal of the trade, and that after such full consideration the Government were unable to come to the same conclusions as the Synod.

I hold strongly the opinion that the precautions now taken by the Government will effectually prevent abuses in the recruiting of the islanders.

That such abuses can be prevented is, I think, fully established by the history of the trade during the five years ending with 1890, during which period hardly any authentic cases of abuses were reported.

With respect to the objection that the emigration of the islanders tends to depopulate the group, I have come to the same conclusion that has been put forward by many eminent ministers of the Christian Church in Australia and Great Britain, that it is not practicable to isolate the Natives of the Pacific, or to deprive them of the opportunity, when they desire to do so, of visiting civilised countries and seeing civilised peoples, and that any attempt to enforce such isolation is not desirable.

I desire to add my assurance of the profound respect which I entertain for the Synod, and for the opinion which it has put on record, and I hope that credit will equally be given to this Government for the sincerity of their convictions, and their determination that abuses shall not be permitted in the trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

The Rev. W. Watt,

Clerk of the New Hebrides Mission Synod,
Aneityum, New Hebrides.

No. 25.

SIR JOHN B. THURSTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received November 1, 1892.)

[Answered by No. 26.]

High Commissioner's Office,
Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji, August 25, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a letter, dated 17th June 1892, which I have recently received from the Reverend W. Watt, Clerk of the New Hebrides Mission Synod, protesting against the labour traffic in the Western Pacific, and its renewal by the Queensland Government.

2. In transmitting this paper to your Lordship I feel it my duty to say that, in my opinion, the resumption of the labour traffic by the Colony of Queensland cannot but have the most injurious consequences to the Natives of the New Hebrides, Solomon, and other Islands, if such traffic should exceed anything but the most moderate proportions.

3. That the Government of Queensland is animated by the most sincere desire and determination to so regulate the traffic as to render impossible the commission of criminal acts cannot be doubted.

4. But with an experience in the Western Pacific extending as far back as the origination of the traffic in question, I am of opinion that if the regulations, which I have carefully perused, of the Government of Queensland are properly enforced the number of labourers recruited will be wholly inadequate to meet the demand for them. If on the other hand the supply should even approximately meet that demand I believe that the regulations will have been, in a large measure, ignored. I have had an opportunity of reading the letter of Sir Arthur Gordon to the "Times" on the 7th June last, with the substance of which I fully concur, and also the reply to that letter of Sir James Garrick, the Agent-General for Queensland. In his letter the Agent-General suggests that the steamship "Merrie England" might be employed in making frequent visits to the Solomon and New Hebrides Islands with Sir William MacGregor, thus keeping recruiting from Queensland more under observation and control. The inference, I fear, is that notwithstanding his hopes and desires the Agent-General feels no great confidence that the regulations will be observed.

5. The population of the islands named is comparatively small, infinitely smaller, in fact, than is generally supposed, and I do not doubt that if the demand for labourers is large and continuous for a few years the supply will be exhausted, and the present difficult question be solved by the traffic having brought about its own end.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

Enclosure in No. 25.

DEAR SIR,

Aneityum, New Hebrides, June 17, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the accompanying Minute* which has been passed by our Mission Synod. It takes the form of a protest against the labour traffic, especially its renewal by the Queensland Government.

We hope that you will take the matter into your favourable consideration.

I have, &c.

To Sir J. B. Thurston,
Her Majesty's High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific.

(Signed) W. WATT,
Clerk of the New Hebrides Mission Synod.

* See Enclosure in No. 24.

No. 26.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR J. B. THURSTON.

SIR, Downing Street, November 7, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 25th of August last* enclosing a protest from the New Hebrides Mission Synod against the labour trade in the Western Pacific and its renewal by the Queensland Government.

You will have learnt from my predecessor's Despatch of the 17th of August† that he had received the same protest direct from Mr. Watt.

I enclose a copy of a letter‡ which I recently caused to be addressed to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in reply to a representation made by that body, and which will explain my views and position with regard to this question.

Sir J. B. Thurston,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.

No. 27.

The "TIMES," Thursday, October 27, 1892.

THE KANAKA LABOUR TRAFFIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES."

SIR, London Missionary Society,
14, Blomfield Street, London, E.C., October 25.

I AM directed by the board to send you the enclosed, which is a copy of correspondence between the board and Sir Samuel Griffith on the subject of the Kanaka labour traffic. We trust that you may be able to insert it in the columns of your valuable paper.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) A. N. JOHNSON.

"SIR, "In the name of the directors of the London Missionary Society, we take the liberty of addressing you in reference to the so-called Kanaka labour traffic.

"The board has heard with grave concern that the Queensland Government has determined to resume this traffic. You are, of course, fully aware of the society's long historical connexion with the islands of the Pacific, which were its first, and have been in some respects its most interesting and most successful, field of missionary operations. You are also aware of the society's intimate and responsible connexion with the great island of New Guinea. This and the acknowledged evils and abuses of the Kanaka traffic as hitherto carried on must be the board's justification for thus approaching you.

"The board frankly recognises that theoretically the traffic is legitimate and calculated to prove advantageous both to the islanders who obtain employment and to the colonial planters who employ them, and further recognises the honourable intention of the Queensland Government so to regulate the traffic as to prevent the abuses of former days. Moreover, it disclaims all thought of questioning your own ends and motives or those of your colleagues in this matter. Undoubtedly you are convinced that you are acting rightly. But, whilst candidly making these acknowledgments, the board still feels bound to raise its earnest and emphatic protest against the resumption of the traffic, and to record its judgment that this cannot but be attended with serious moral and other evil consequences.

"Its knowledge of the conditions of life in the Pacific convinces the board that no regulations, however honestly and skilfully framed, will avail to prevent gross abuse and wrong.

"Only when protected by some strong power would the islanders, in their ignorance of the outside world and of the nature of contracts and agreements, be in a position to secure

* No. 25.

† Not printed.

‡ No. 10.

themselves against misunderstanding or fraud; nor can the board believe it possible for the Queensland Government to command the services of agents possessing such knowledge of the various dialects and other qualifications necessary to insure perfect fairness and liberty of action for the Natives whom they seek to engage.

"Moreover, the board cannot hide from itself the fact that the traffic militates seriously against the moral progress of the islanders. The establishment of missions is hindered by it; the success of those already established is seriously crippled. It is gladly admitted that in some instances residence in Queensland has proved morally and Christianly beneficial to the labourers, but as regards the great majority of them the result is sadly demoralizing, and when they return to their homes their influence upon their neighbours is most pernicious. To their own vices they have added the vices of white races, the result being simply disastrous.

"Finally, the board protests against the traffic because of its undoubted tendency to depopulate the islands. A hard, selfish cynicism may regard with indifference the stamping out of what are called the weaker races, but the London Missionary Society cannot but deprecate a policy which, even though unintentionally, practically involves this. As has been ably pointed out by Sir Arthur Gordon, in a letter to the 'Times' of June 7, 1892, 'this traffic will certainly hasten the extinction of the Polynesian races'; and yet the work of the society and other societies clearly shows these races to be capable of wonderful mental and moral elevation and advancement. Why should they be sacrificed to meet the supposed needs of Queensland colonists?

"The case of New Guinea is exceptional, and demands separate consideration. It is British territory, and as Vice-Admiral Erskine, who represented Great Britain in the transaction, has reminded the British public in his emphatic protest to the 'Times' when the south-eastern portion of that island was brought under British protection it was 'declared that the Natives of New Guinea should not be taken from their country and 'compelled, under arrangements and contracts which they cannot possibly understand, to 'labour continuously for three years on Queensland plantations.' Sir Arthur Gordon, in the letter referred to above, further states that since New Guinea 'became a British 'possession, recruiting for labour has been strictly prohibited, and it has been declared 'both by the late Sir Peter Scratchley and the present able Administrator of New Guinea ' (Sir William MacGregor), that it is essential that it should continue to be so, to give 'measures designed for the benefit of the Natives any chance of success.' To set aside such pledges and declarations of Imperial policy, apart from the considerations urged in the foregoing paragraphs, would, in the estimation of the board, be an act of perfidy and cruel injustice.

"On these grounds, therefore, the board, in all friendliness but all earnestness of purpose, appeals, Sir, to yourself and to the Queensland Government, entreating you to abstain from this traffic, and to adopt some other means by which colonial necessities may be met.

"We have, &c.
(Signed) "WILLIAM ROBERTS, Chairman.
"ALFRED J. SHEPHEARD, Deputy Chairman.
"ALBERT SPICER, Treasurer.
"R. WARDLAW THOMPSON, } Secretaries.
"ARTHUR N. JOHNSON, }
"GEORGE COUSINS, }

"The Hon.
Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, K.C.M.G., Q.C.,
Premier of Queensland, &c."

"London Missionary Society, Established 1795,
14, Blomfield Street, London, E.C., July 2, 1892.
DEAR BRETHREN,
Herewith we forward a printed copy of a memorial which the directors of this society have addressed to Sir Samuel Griffith, the Queensland Premier, in reference to the proposed resumption of the Kanaka labour traffic.

"It is with much concern that the board has heard of the determination of the Queensland Government to renew this traffic; and in the hope that even yet this determination may be relinquished, the board has ventured to memorialise the distinguished and high-minded statesman who is at the head of the Queensland Government.

"May we bespeak your sympathy and co-operation in this matter? We are assured that, like ourselves, you deplore the sad results that hitherto have characterised, and in the

board's judgment are inseparable from, the traffic, and we therefore appeal to you to use your great influence to prevent its resumption.

"Believe us, &c.

(Signed)

"WILLIAM ROBERTS, Chairman.

"ALFRED J. SHEPHEARD, Deputy Chairman.

"ALBERT SPICER, Treasurer.

"R. WARDLAW THOMPSON,

"ARTHUR N. JOHNSON,

"GEORGE COUSINS,

} Secretaries.

"To Christian Ministers and Churches
of all Denominations in Queensland
and the other Australian Colonies."

"Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, Queensland,

August 17, 1892.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 4, written on behalf of the directors of the London Missionary Society, referring to the Pacific Island labour trade and inviting the Government of Queensland to abstain from this traffic.

"I note with much satisfaction that the directors recognise the honourable intention of the Government so to regulate the traffic as to prevent the abuses of former days and disclaim any intention of questioning their aims or motives in the matter. They doubt, however, the ability of the Government to give effect to their intentions.

"I am very well aware of the conflicting statements that have been made on this subject, some of them by missionaries, to whose testimony much weight is naturally attached. But, having been charged with the duty for many years—from 1883 to 1888, and again since 1890—of administering the Pacific Island Labourers Acts and having made it my special care to investigate as fully as possible every complaint of any alleged abuses during these years, I have felt myself impelled to the conclusion that the abuses of former days have long since come to an end, and that, with proper supervision and a careful selection of captains and crews of the labour vessels, the danger of their recurrence is of the smallest. I need scarcely add that the selection is strictly enforced and that no person will be allowed to proceed as a Government agent in charge of a ship unless I am personally satisfied as to his character and capacity.

"It is, moreover, a fact well known to those who have actual experience in the matter that, in the islands to which permission to recruit is now limited, almost all, if not all, the Natives are fully acquainted, from the reports of their fellow islanders who have already been engaged for service in Queensland, with the conditions of the service.

"The objection urged by the board that the traffic militates against the moral progress of the islanders is, I think, one on which much can be said on both sides. There is much reliable testimony to the effect that the moral welfare of the islanders in a large number of cases has been benefited by their sojourn in Queensland as fully as if they had remained in their native islands.

"The strongest objection to my mind is that which urges that the traffic tends to depopulate the islands. I have, however, after much consideration, come to the conclusion that it is not practicable to shut the islanders up in their own homes, or prevent them from fulfilling their desire to see civilized countries. Many of the most eminent ministers of the Christian Church who are personally acquainted with the subject have publicly expressed the opinion that an attempt to do so would be futile, and that, even if successful, it would be undesirable. I share in this conclusion. Nor am I able to attach as much weight as the board appear to do to the opinion of Sir Arthur Gordon, whose personal experience was acquired in times which are already somewhat remote and when the conditions were very different from those now prevailing.

"I regret that the board seem to be under some misapprehension with respect to British New Guinea, into which they appear to have been led by the letters of Admiral Erskine and Sir Arthur Gordon. British New Guinea is a British possession, and it is a part of its Constitution (with the passing of which I had the honour to have something to do) that the Natives cannot be deported except under the sanction of an Ordinance reserved for the Queen's assent and assented to by Her Majesty. The insertion of this provision was made at my own instance, and no one is more fully aware of its importance. I cannot help thinking, therefore, that the suggestion that the Government of Queensland propose to disregard it must have been made under imperfect information.

"I am not aware of any suggestion having been made to deport Natives of New Guinea to Queensland, and I am quite sure that if any such suggestion were made it would not

be entertained by Sir William MacGregor, the Administrator, unless he was quite satisfied that the deportation would be distinctly in the interests of the Natives. I can conceive it to be quite possible that after the lapse of some years, and under altered conditions, it may be advantageous to the Natives to allow them to come to Queensland for short periods of a few months, but under existing conditions I do not think that any such proposal is at all likely ever to be made.

"I regret that I am unable to come to the same conclusion as the board on this important question, but I trust that the directors will continue to give my colleagues and myself credit for integrity of intention in the matter, and I hope that they may even admit the possibility that a closer acquaintance with the subject might lead to a modification of their own opinions.

"To the Chairman, Deputy Chairman,
Treasurer, and Secretaries of the
London Missionary Society, 14,
Blomfield Street, London, E.C."

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

No. 28.

SIR WM. MACGREGOR (BRITISH NEW GUINEA) to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received November 28, 1892.)

MY LORD,

Port Moresby, September 27, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copy of a letter received from the Rev. C. W. Abel, covering a resolution recently passed by the District Committee of the London Missionary Society.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. MACGREGOR.

Enclosure in No. 28.

SIR,

Port Moresby, New Guinea, July 27, 1892.

HEREWITH I beg to hand you a copy of a resolution, recently passed by the District Committee of the London Missionary Society, dealing with the revival of the labour traffic by the Queensland Government.

Will you favour me by seeing that copies of this resolution are forwarded to the Home and Colonial Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. WM. ABEL,
Secretary, New Guinea District Committee.

The Hon. the Government Secretary,
British New Guinea.

THAT the New Guinea District Committee of the London Missionary Society take this opportunity of placing on record their disapprobation of the revival of the labour traffic by the Queensland Government. While they recognise that precautions are being taken in the present instance to prevent a repetition of the former evil practices of this system they are still of opinion that any such relationship between a strong and a weak people will be open to serious abuses, and will result in the speedy deterioration of the island races concerned. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his Honour the Administrator, with a request that copies be forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and also to each of the Australian Governments.

No. 29.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received August 29, 1892.)

[Answered by No. 11 ; Despatch in continuation, No. 30.]

Government House, Brisbane,

July 16, 1892.

MY LORD,

IN my Despatch of the 18th ultimo,* I reported that two vessels, the "Para" and the "May," had left Queensland with returned Pacific Island labourers to be landed at their respective islands, and I also stated that these vessels had been licensed to recruit islanders under the provisions of the law as it now exists.

2. It appeared to me that it might be useful for Her Majesty's Government to be in possession of information with respect to the number and sex of islanders who left Queensland, and, if possible, of some details as to property taken away by them, and I asked the Chief Secretary to be so good as to supply me with these particulars.

3. I now enclose copy of a letter from Sir Samuel Griffith, dated the 5th instant, in which he encloses a return of the number of islanders, men, women, and children, who left in the two vessels referred to, but he was unable to give information as to the property taken with them. It will be seen, however, that in future he will obtain a return in the case of every ship, specifying the amount of wages paid to the returning islanders and the amounts withdrawn by them from the Government savings bank within three months before their departure. These returns will be regularly forwarded to your Lordship.

4. Since the receipt of Sir Samuel Griffith's letter, I have been supplied with two statements, more in detail, of the two vessels, and of those who have embarked in them, which I also enclose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,

July 5, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 27th ultimo, asking to be informed as to the number of Pacific Island labourers who recently left the Colony in the "May" and the "Para" respectively, and the number of women and children who left in the same vessels, and also as to the property taken with them by the islanders, so far as this may be ascertained.

I have now the honour to enclose a return containing the information desired as to the number of islanders, men, women, and children, who left in the vessels referred to, but I regret that it is not practicable to give information as to the property taken with them. It is proposed, however, in future, to obtain a return in the case of every ship, specifying the amount of wages paid to the returning islanders, and the amounts withdrawn by them from the Government savings bank within three months before their departure, which will, I think, be approximately equal to the value of the goods taken with them.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B.,

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

&c.

&c.

&c.

Governor.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of POLYNESIANS which left QUEENSLAND by the "MAY"
and "PARA" on their last voyage.

	1892.	Adults.		Children.		Grand Total.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
"May" - -	May 30th -	82	9	4	4	86	13	99
"Para" - -	June 1st -	155	19	3	3	158	22	180
	Total -	237	28	7	7	244	35	279

* Not printed.

Enclosure 2 in No 29.

LIST OF VESSELS licensed to introduce Pacific Islanders for week ending June 5, 1892.

Name of Ship.	No. of Trip.	Name of Owner, Agent, or Charterer.	Name of Master.	Name of Government Agent.	Number of Officers (inclusive of Captain).	Number of Crew, Europeans.	Number of Crew, Polynesians.
"Para" -	10	C. J. W. South -	J. Mackay -	A. Thompson -	2	11	7
"May" -	10	W. B. O'Connell & Co., Bundaberg.	W. Spence -	A. C. Cecil -	3	7	8

Name of Ship.	Date of Licence.	Limit of Voyage.	Number of Islanders Ship licensed to Carry.	Name of Intended Employers.	District for which Islanders to be recruited.	Name of Group from whence to be introduced.
"Para" -	27th May 1892 -	6 months -	176	Colonial Sugar Co., Victoria, Herbert River.	Ingham -	New Hebrides and Solomons.
"May" -	9th May 1892 -	4 months -	150	A. H. and E. Young -	Bundaberg -	New Hebrides and Solomons.

Name of Ship.	Number of Islanders returning, distinguishing Men, Women, and Children.	Islands to which returning.	Amount of Wages paid to returning Islanders within Three Months of Departure.	Amount of Money withdrawn by them from Government Savings Bank within Three Months of Departure (exclusive of such Wages).	Port of Departure.	Date of Departure.
"Para" -	Adults. 155 males - 19 females - Children. 3 males - 3 females -	Aoba - Paama - Lamien - Api - Ambrym - Mallicolo - Santo - Mai - Pentecost - Tanna - Sandwich - Tongariki - Ahvoisey - Malo - Aurora - Vanua Lava - Ureparapara - Buka Buka - Seu - St. Christoval - Gaudalcanar - Malayta - Florida - Api - Ambrym - Paama - Mai - Aoba - Tanna - Tongoa - Pentecost - Aurora - Meralaba - Mallicolo - Lacon - Ureparapara - Buka Buka -	-	-	Brisbane	1st June 1892.
"May" -	Adults. 82 males - 9 females - Children. 4 males - 4 females -	Aoba - Tanna - Tongoa - Pentecost - Aurora - Meralaba - Mallicolo - Lacon - Ureparapara - Buka Buka -	-	-	Bundaberg	30th May 1892.

The Under Colonial Secretary,
Brisbane.

W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

No. 30.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received November 22, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,
October 14, 1892.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

IN my Despatch of June 18, 1892,* I reported to your predecessor the departure of a labour vessel, called the "Para," from Brisbane with returned Pacific Islanders, and for the purpose of recruiting fresh labourers, and in my Despatch of the 16th July last,† I enclosed a return of the number of islanders, men, women, and children, who left in the vessel.

2. I now have the honour to report the return of the "Para" to Brisbane on the completion of her cruise, having on board 86 recruits. An account of the cruise of this vessel is given in the cutting from the "Brisbane Courier" of yesterday's date which I forward herewith. Yesterday afternoon I went over the vessel before the islanders had been transferred to the steamer that will take them to the estates. The 82 men and four women, wives of four of the recruits, were in excellent health, and seemed strong, well nourished people, and in very good spirits. The accommodation was all that could be desired, with abundant space and ventilation. About 20 of the recruits had already served in Queensland, and spoke as if they were glad to be back.

3. Nothing could be less like the "slavery" of which some well-meaning people speak, than the whole appearance of the islanders, or the arrangements made for their comfort and accommodation.

The Most Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 30.

CUTTING from the "BRISBANE COURIER," of October 13, 1892.

CRUISE OF THE "PARA."

FIRST ARRIVAL UNDER NEW REGULATIONS.

The brig "Para" sailed from Cape Moreton on 1st June, bound for the New Hebrides, and having on board 174 islanders returning to their homes. The vessel arrived at Tanna, New Hebrides, on 13th June; and from there worked northward, calling at nearly every island in the Hebrides, Banks, Torres, and Solomon Groups, and finally taking her departure from the south coast of Gaudalcanar for home, on 1st October, with 86 recruits, arriving at Cape Moreton on the 11th instant. The recruits were obtained as follows:—From Tanna, 5; Pentecost, 1; Maralap, 2; Lacoona, 2; Vanna Lava, 2; Sew, 1; Malayta, 67; and Gaudalcanar, 6. In consequence of having so many islanders to land, the vessel did not stop for any length of time in the Southern groups; but from the little intercourse had with the natives of all the Southern islands, with the exception of Tanna, great difficulty was experienced in making the Natives believe that recruiting had recommenced. At Tanna there were plenty of men willing to recruit, but they could not be taken as the vessel had her full complement on board. In the Solomons the Natives did not seem to be aware that recruiting had ever ceased. The weather, taking it throughout, was moderate, the prevailing winds being south-east, and, as usual, plenty of rain. The only Queensland vessels spoken were the "May" and the "Empreza." The "May" was last seen at Mai on the 18th June, when she had one recruit on board. The "Empreza" was last seen at Wanderer Bay, Gaudalcanar, on 24th September, when she had 70 recruits on board, and was bound for the New Hebrides. The health of the recruits was good throughout the voyage, there being not a single serious case of sickness amongst them. The boys appear to be a happy family, and well contented with the treatment they have received from Captain Mackay, and the Government agent, Mr. Thompson. They are a sturdy set, and, in fact, are quite a picked lot. They are still on board the "Para," which is moored in mid-stream opposite Creek Street. On the arrival of the "Jumna" yesterday, the "boys" cheered the vessel in their own style, and each time the steam ferry punt passed a similar compliment was paid to the passengers crossing the river.

* Not printed.

† No. 29.

No. 31.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 31, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,
November 25, 1892.
MY LORD MARQUESS,
I HAVE the honour to enclose for your information copy of the report of the labour vessel "Para," which vessel returned to Brisbane on the 11th ultimo, and my visit to which was reported in my Despatch of the 14th idem.*
I have, by some omission, only received this report to-day.
I have, &c.
The Most Hon. (Signed) H. W. NORMAN.
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 31.-

Pacific Island Labour Office,
Brisbane, October 20, 1892.
SIR,
I HAVE the honour to report upon the circumstances attendant on the tenth voyage of the "Para," which vessel arrived here on the 11th instant.
She left Cape Moreton on the 1st June, Captain John Mackay in command, with Mr. G. Thompson as Government Agent, also 174 return islanders, and licensed to introduce 176 labourers for the Colonial Sugar Company's estate at Victoria in the Herbert River district, and reached Tanna on the 13th idem.
The returns were duly landed at their respective homes between the 13th June and 2nd October, with the exception of some 18, who were landed at other places at their own request and for various reasons, each case being explained in the log.
Recruiting was commenced at Tanna on the 14th June, and was prosecuted throughout the New Hebrides, Banks, Torres, and Solomon Groups, the last two recruits being obtained at Guadalcanar on the 29th September, making a total of 86 in 108 days, being an average of rather less than one recruit per diem.
The last of the returns was landed at Guadalcanar on the 1st instant, and a course was shaped the same afternoon for Queensland, and, after an uneventful run, the vessel reached Cape Moreton on the 11th instant.

The recruits hail as follows :—

New Hebrides :—Tanna, 5 ; Pentecost, 1.
Banks :—Maralab, 2 ; Lacona, 2 ; Vanua Lava, 2.
Torres :—Sen, 1.
Solomons :—Malayta, 67 ; Guadalcanar, 6.
Total, 86. Males, 82 ; females, 4.

Sixty are strangers ; 19 have worked in Queensland previously, three in Samoa and four in Fiji.

The only event of note was the rumour of an intended attack on the vessel at the instance of one of the recruits who had been to the Colony before ; extra precautions were, however, taken, and nothing came of it.

Medical examination of the recruits resulted in the passing of all except one, who was rejected on account of deformities of arms and right leg ; the rest were duly placed under agreement by me to the Colonial Sugar Company, Victoria, and were duly despatched to their destination in charge of Mr. Holmes, who was mate and recruiter of the vessel this voyage.

Mr. Thompson, the Government Agent, has no complaints to prefer against any of the officers or crew of the vessel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.
The Under Colonial Secretary,
Brisbane.

No. 32.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received November 14, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,
October 1, 1892.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I do myself the honour to inform your Lordship that I took advantage of the opportunity afforded to me by a recent visit to Maryborough and Bundaberg to carefully inspect two vessels about to proceed with return labourers to the Pacific Islands, and to bring labourers from thence to Queensland.

2. These vessels, the "Archimedes" and the "Lochiel," were fitted ready for sea, and seemed in every way adapted for the service, and quite capable of carrying with comfort the regulated number of passengers. They had spacious 'tween decks, the height in the "Lochiel" being over 9 feet, and good ventilation. In fact the accommodation seemed to me to be quite equal to that afforded to emigrants from the United Kingdom, or even to troops in hired vessels.

3. The provisions allowed under clause 50. of the Regulations of 1892 are so ample that practically, as I was informed, each passenger takes as much to eat as he pleases, and little restriction is placed on the issue of water, of which a gallon a day is allowed for each adult, except with the object of preventing waste.

4. I saw a number of islanders who had come to Maryborough to return to the islands in the "Archimedes," and men and women were in good health, well dressed, and provided with boxes in which to take back various articles they had purchased. Some of the islanders seemed to repent having come to embark for their homes, and were much disposed to ask to be allowed to remain, while several others told me they would, after a time, return to Queensland.

5. I may add that I had the opportunity of conversing with a Roman Catholic priest, who has been for a long time at Bundaberg, and knows the Kanakas well; and I also have had conversations with a clergyman of the Church of England and with a Nonconformist minister, both of whom labour amongst the Kanakas; and from all of these gentlemen I received satisfactory information as to the treatment of the islanders on the estates, and of their willingness to attend schools and receive instruction. The last-named gentleman informed me that he had heard from two missionaries in the islands favourable accounts of the labourers who had returned to them from Queensland.

6. I trust that this information will be satisfactory to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

The Most Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

No. 33.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received November 22, 1892.)

Government House, Brisbane,
October 14, 1892.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the license and of a return* of the labour vessel "Lochiel," which left Bundaberg for the New Hebrides and Solomon Islands on the 7th instant.

In my Despatch of the 1st instant,† I informed your Lordship of a visit which I paid this vessel, and reported on the satisfactory accommodation which it afforded the passengers.

I have, &c.

The Most Hon. the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

* Similar returns have been sent by Sir H. W. Norman in respect of each of the other recruiting vessels licensed.

† No. 32.

Enclosure in No. 33.

RETURN of VESSEL licensed to introduce PACIFIC ISLANDERS on 15th September 1892.

Name of ship.—“Lochiel.”

No. of trip.—17.

Tonnage.—216.

Name of owner, agent, or charterer.—W. B. O'Connell & Co.

Name of master.—Robert Pearn.

Name of Government Agent.—J. E. B. Hammond.

Number of officers (inclusive of captain).—3.

Number of crew, Europeans.—9.

Number of crew, Polynesians.—6.

Date of license.—15th September 1892.

Limit of voyage.—Six months.

Number of islanders ship licensed to carry.—143.

Names of intended employers.—Buchanan and Denny (30), A. C. Walker (20), A. H. and E. Young (93).

District for which islanders to be recruited.—Bundaberg.

Name of group from whence to be introduced.—New Hebrides and Solomons.

Number of islanders returning, distinguishing men, women, and children.—49 males, 7 females (adults), 2 male children (58 in all).

Amount of wages paid to returning islanders within three months of departure.—294*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*

Amount of money withdrawn by them from Government Savings Bank within three months of departure (exclusive of such wages).—318*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

Port of departure.—Bundaberg.

Date of departure.—3rd October 1892.

The Under Colonial Secretary,
Brisbane.

F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

Name of Ship.	Islands to which returning.
“Lochiel” - - - - -	Api 10
	Aoba 8
	Santo 7
	Pentecost 1
	Meralaba 8
	Mallicola 4
	Tanna 2
	Paama 2
	Ambrym 4
	— 46 Hebrides.
	Lacon 6
	Vanua Lava 3
	— 9 Banks.
	Malayta 1
	— 1 Solomons.
	— 56
	—

Schedule E.

SHIPMASTER'S LICENSE.

In pursuance of the provisions of the “Pacific Island Labourers Acts, 1880–1892,” I hereby authorise the ship known as the “Lochiel,” of 216 tons register, to be employed in carrying islanders between the Pacific Islands and Queensland, provided that such ship does not at any one time carry more than 143 islanders.

Given under my hand, at Brisbane, the 15th day of September 1892.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH,
Chief Secretary.

Entered :

(Signed) F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

PROHIBITION under Regulation, No. 19, of 20th May 1892.

Recruiting is forbidden at the group known as the Santa Cruz Islands, and at the Island of Tongoa, in the New Hebrides; also, at any place or island within the German sphere of influence in the Western Pacific; that is to say, any place or island lying to the west, north-west, or north of the conventional line of demarcation agreed upon by the declaration made by the Governments of Great Britain and the German Empire, and signed at Berlin on the 6th of April 1886, and which line of demarcation is as follows:—

Starting from the north-east coast of New Guinea at a point near Mitre Rock on the eighth parallel of south latitude, being the boundary between the German and British possessions on that coast, and following that parallel to its intersection with the 154th degree of east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 7° 15' south latitude and 155° 25' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 7° 15' south latitude and 155° 35' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 7° 25' south latitude and 156° 40' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 8° 50' south latitude and 159° 50' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 6° north latitude and 173° 30' east longitude; and thence by a line to a point situate in 15° north latitude and 173° 30' east longitude.

(Signed) F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

No. 34.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received December 12, 1892.)

[Continued by No. 35.]

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Government House, Brisbane,

October 29, 1892.

IN my Despatch of the 2nd ultimo* I forwarded to your Lordship a copy of the license and return of the labour vessel "Ariel," which had left Maryborough for the Pacific Islands, and I have now the honour to report that the vessel has arrived at Bundaberg with recruits.

2. I enclose a cutting from the "Brisbane Courier" of this date, which gives an account of the voyage of the "Ariel," from which your Lordship will see that nearly half of the 63 recruits she has brought are "old hands," that is, have served in Queensland previously. The official report on this vessel will be sent to your Lordship as soon as received.

The Most Hon. the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 34.

EXTRACT from the "BRISBANE COURIER," of October 29, 1892.

VOYAGE OF THE "ARIEL."

The labour brigantine "Ariel," which left Maryborough on 15th August, returned to Bundaberg on Tuesday, 25th instant, after a successful recruiting voyage to the South Seas. She brought 63 recruits, of whom one was a female. The vessel was under command of Captain Connell, with Mr. R. E. De Vaux as Government Agent. About one third of the recruits had previously worked in the Bundaberg district, and were seemingly glad of an opportunity to return to Queensland. The "Ariel" took 41 return islanders to the South Seas on her outward trip. The voyage was uninteresting. Two returns were landed on 31st August at Tanna, and there 27 recruits were obtained. Dr. May on Wednesday examined the recruits, and passed all except one, who was suffering from some lung disease. The boys, who look a fine healthy lot, were apportioned to the following employers:—J. Gaylare, 15; Gibson and Howes, 30; M. Wessel, 5; J. Clark, 5; J. Palmer, 8; total, 63. The following is a report of the trip:—Left Maryborough on 15th August, Pilot Evans in charge, and towed to the

* Not printed.

White Cliffs by the "Muriel Bell," having on board 41 return islanders for the New Hebrides Group; anchored at the White Cliffs same night, and proceeded next day to Hervey Bay; at 9 p.m. pilot left the ship at the Fairway Buoy. Had moderate southerly and westerly winds on the run across, arriving off Aneiteum on 30th August, 15 days out, when spoke steamer "Birksgate," bound for Fiji. Commenced recruiting off Tanna on 31st. Landed two returns, and obtained 27 recruits there, afterwards working the islands in rotation, landing and recruiting till Friday, 14th instant; secured 63 recruits, and landed all returns; nearly one half of the recruits on board being old hands. Had the vessel had licenses for a full complement they could have easily been obtained. In landing the last of the returns many boys were anxious to go to Queensland, but having on board as many as licenses were held for, were unable to take them. Saw the labour schooner "Meg Merrilies," belonging to Fiji, and reported having 43 recruits on board when off Star Peak; had moderate weather while at the islands, the wind nearly all the time being from north-east to east. After landing the last two returns at Cape Lisburn Island, Santo, on the 16th instant, made a start on the homeward trip. Wind very light from east-north-east to the Brampton reefs, which were rounded on the morning of the 20th; very light east-north-east wind till the 24th; sighted Sandy Cape light at 2 a.m. on the 25th, blowing fresh south-east gale; boarded by Pilot Neill at 11 a.m.; proceeded up the river, and moored abreast of the town at 3 p.m.

No. 35.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 27, 1892.)

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Government House, Brisbane,
November 18, 1892.

IN my Despatch of 2nd September last,* I reported the departure of the labour vessel "Ariel" from Bundaberg to the Pacific Islands to recruit labourers, and I now do myself the honour to enclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of the report upon her cruise, and of her return to Bundaberg on the 25th ultimo with 63 labourers, one of whom is a woman.

The Most Hon. the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 35.

SIR,

Pacific Island Labour Office, Brisbane,
November 4, 1892.

THE return of the "Ariel" from her 17th voyage under the Pacific Island Labour Acts affords me the honour of reporting upon the cruise.

She left Hervey Bay on the 16th August, Captain Connell in command, and Mr. de Vaux as Government Agent, with 41 returns, and destined to recruit 64 labourers for six planters in the Bundaberg District.

The returns were duly landed at their respective homes, except three: (1) No. 3, Lemah, an old man, who died at sea from mal-de-mer on the 28th August; (2) No. 32, Ahweyse, who died during the night of the 11th September at Dillons Bay, Irromango, and was buried on shore the following day, service being conducted by a missionary teacher; (3) No. 37, Dargo, a native of Malo, who insisted upon being landed at Aoba, as explained in the special report of the Government Agent attached hereto.

Recruiting was commenced at Tanna on the 31st August, and was continued throughout the New Hebrides till the 13th October, on which date the last two recruits were obtained. Of the recruits, No. 38, Tanghoop, who was recruited at Api on the 22nd September, is a native of Irromango, and was working for George Connor, a trader at Api, who consented to his recruiting; Nos. 62 and 63, Biggfarr and Terrafom, recruited at Aoba on 13th October; they are both natives of Santo, and said they were landed on Aoba from a French cutter, the "Constantine," on the 8th October, on which day the owner of the cutter and another Frenchman were murdered by the natives of Aurora; these two men recruited, as they were afraid to remain on Aoba.

* Not printed.

The recruiting occupied 44 days, and 63 labourers were obtained; males, 62, female, 1, being an average of $1\frac{9}{22}$ per diem.

On the 15th October the "Ariel" sailed for Bundaberg, and arrived there after a fair passage on the 25th ultimo.

The recruits hail as follows:—

New Hebrides	Tanna	-	-	-	27
	Murra	-	-	-	4
	Api	-	-	-	25
	Aoba	-	-	-	5
	Santo	-	-	-	2
Total					63

Thirty-five are strangers. 21 have worked in Queensland before, one in Noumea, and six at Sandwich.

The medical examination resulted in the rejection of one only, No. 38, Bankertam, who is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis; the remaining 62 were duly placed upon agreement to their respective indenters in the Bundaberg District.

The voyage seems to have been well conducted, and the Government Agent has no complaints to make, and all the papers are in order.

The Under Colonial Secretary,
Brisbane.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

Pacific Island Labour Office, Brisbane,
November 5, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that all the return islanders by schooner "Ariel," trip 17, except one, were landed at their own islands.

The following is an extract from my log, page 30, relating to this islander, No. 37:—
Dargo, a native of Malo, requested me to land him at Walluah, Island of Aoba, as some of his friends were living there. I told him he had better remain on board, as the ship was going to his place in a few days; he, however, insisted on going ashore at Walluah, and said he could get home in a canoe if he wanted to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER DE VAUX,
Government Agent.

To the Immigration Agent.

No. 36.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received January 9, 1893.)

Government House, Brisbane,
November 29, 1892.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 25th instant,* and with special reference to my Despatch of the 18th June last,† in which I reported that a license had been granted to the labour vessel "May" for the recruitment of Polynesian labour, I have now the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a report received from the Government Agent who accompanied the ship on her last voyage.

The Most Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 36.

Pacific Island Labour Office, Brisbane,
November 17, 1892.

SIR,

THE return of the labour ship "May" affords me the honour of reporting upon her recent and tenth voyage under the Pacific Island Labour Acts.

* No. 31.

† Not printed.

The ship was certified to have had sufficient space to accommodate 150 islanders, and licenses were granted to enable the master to recruit that number for Messrs. Young Bros., of Bundaberg and Maryborough.

William Spence was the master and Mr. Cecil the Government Agent.

She left Burnett Heads on the 29th of May 1892, with 91 returning islanders on board, and arrived off Aneiteum on the 6th June last.

On the 11th June a returning islander named Blemmet, No. 102, died of phthisis. Eleven returning islanders were landed elsewhere than at their proper landing places, and according to the accompanying special report from Mr. Cecil, which includes copies of entries made in his log-book at the time the landing was effected, apparently at, their own request. The rest of the returning islanders were landed at their own villages.

Recruiting was commenced at Tanna on the 10th of June and was prosecuted throughout the New Hebrides, Shepherd's, Banks and Torres Groups, finishing at North Island, Torres Group, on the 27th October 1892, having occupied 139 days, in which were obtained 71 recruits, 68 males and three females, being an average of about one in every two days.

On the 21st July a recruit named Tang-pawn, No. 28, jumped overboard while the ship was anchored off his village at Mallicolo; he was picked up by the ship's boat, and as he wished to go ashore he was landed; this case was included in my special report to you of the 15th instant.

On the 27th August two recruits, No. 37, Caro, and No. 38, Willa Maanoo, deserted at Aoba; they were Natives of this island and recruited on 20th August. On the 18th October recruit No. 19, Malavie, died, apparently of heart disease.

On the 27 October the ship sailed for Bundaberg, carrying 67 recruits, 64 males and three females.

Twenty-eight (28) are strangers, two (2) have previously been in Fiji, one (1) in Honolulu, and thirty-six (36) in Queensland.

All the recruits, with the exception of No. 20, Tokolo, and No. 51, Bow, who were suffering from slight ailments and reserved for medical treatment on the plantation, were passed by the Government Health Officer at Bundaberg.

The recruits hail as follows :—

SHEPHERD'S GROUP.						
Moro	-	-	-	-	-	4
Moona	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sandwich	-	-	-	-	-	14
Peile	-	-	-	-	-	1
					—	21
NEW HEBRIDES.						
Tanna	-	-	-	-	-	1
Api	-	-	-	-	-	4
Mallicolo	-	-	-	-	-	7
Aoba	-	-	-	-	-	6
					—	18
BANKS' GROUP.						
Lacona	-	-	-	-	-	15
Vanna Lava	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ureparapara	-	-	-	-	-	4
Motlap	-	-	-	-	-	5
					—	27
TORRES GROUP.						
Tugea	-	-	-	-	-	3
North Island	-	-	-	-	-	2
					—	5
						71
						4
Less one death, two desertions, one landed (4)						—
						67
Number landed in Queensland	-	-	-	-	-	—

On the 18th July an islander named Tapayanare, No. 18, who had been recruited on the 29th June at Sandwich, jumped overboard while the ship was anchored at Chone Bay, Api; a boat was lowered, he was picked up, and taken back and offered a passage to his island; he appears to have refused to return to his home, and elected to go to Queensland. On the ship's arrival at Bundaberg this islander at first refused to go under agreement, but afterwards changed his mind, and was placed on agreement to Young Brothers, and while awaiting transit to their plantation he swam ashore on the 8th instant, absconded, and has not since been heard of.

This islander was included in my special report to you of 15th instant, and he is said to have been previously in Queensland.

The Under Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

Pacific Island Labour Office, Brisbane,
November 15, 1892.

SIR,

THE following is a true copy of the entry in my log concerning the landing of certain Tanna boys on June 17, 1892, and of a man and woman who landed on Mai on June 20, 1892.

The particulars concerning the landing of those Tanna men on Erromango are as follows:—

As the weather appeared to be fine the master decided to try to get to Tanna to land those people if possible. The boys were called aft, and the master explained to the boys that he was going to Tanna to try to land them, and if they could not be landed that they would have to go back to Queensland, as the weather was so bad that it might be several days before a landing could be made.

He explained to them very carefully that the ship would be in great danger in trying to land them, and that they would be in great danger in trying to land.

This conversation took place about 9.30 a.m. About 12.30 p.m., when the master and myself came back from the missionary's house, we found that the boys had made up their minds to land at Erromango.

I told them that they could land there if they liked, and I told them that they could go to Tanna and try to land at their passages if they liked, but they decided to land, and after I had been ashore and seen the missionary's wife about landing them and what chance they had of getting back to their island they were landed.

I saw them into their hut provided for them by the Chief.

Arrangements were made with Mrs. Robinson about sending them to their homes if they wished to go.

These boys belong to or near the places where the fighting is going on, and if they wish to go home they will be sent to the care of the Rev. Mr. Gray, who lives close by their places at Wei Lisi.

These boys were landed according to the Rule No. 43, Pacific Island Act of 1892.

Landed the following Tanna men on Erromango, viz.:—

No. 26, Naress, at Dillons Bay, Erromango.		
„ 27, Nelow,	„	„
„ 35, Ogey,	„	„
„ 36, Yon now,	„	„
„ 39, Yax Ling,	„	„
„ 40, Mary Hango,	„	„
„ 43, Looman,	„	„
„ 61, Weerobe,	„	„

Particulars relanding of:—

No. 67, M. Scio (a Native of Api).

„ 68, F. Mangonguay (a Native of Uraparapara).

These people were to have been landed at Api, but the husband's father has removed to and is living on Mai, so his son "Scio" wished to be landed with his wife and to live with him, landed accordingly.

Particulars relanding of Tali I at a passage other than his own:—

July 18, 1892. Page 42.—The boy Tali I, No. 98, was also taken ashore for the purpose of being landed, but on arrival there refused to go ashore, as his tribe was driven from their houses and he was afraid of being killed if he landed.

As it was, some of the Natives wanted to get to the boat (2nd) to get him out. He says he would like to be landed at Dip Point to-morrow.

July 19, 1892.—No. 98 was landed at Fattaller at his own request.

To the Immigration Agent, Brisbane.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUBREY C. CECIL,
Government Agent.

No. 37.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received January 23, 1893.)

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Government House, Brisbane,
December 15, 1892.

I do myself the honour to forward, for your information, a cutting from the "Brisbane Courier" newspaper of this date, giving an account of the voyage of the Queensland labour barque "Empreza," which has just arrived at Brisbane from the Solomon and New Hebrides groups of islands after having landed 155 return islanders and brought 119 recruits to Queensland, 42 of whom have already served here.

2. The departure of this vessel from Townsville with return islanders was reported in my Despatch of the 20th August last,* and I will forward the official report of her return with recruits as soon as it is received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Most Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 37.

CUTTING from the "Brisbane Courier" of 15th December 1892.

VOYAGE OF BARQUE "EMPREZA."

SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING.

Captain Malcolm reports that the "Empreza" sailed from Townsville on 26th July with 155 return islanders belonging to the various islands situated in the Solomon and New Hebrides groups. The vessel arrived at Marau Sound, Island of Guadalcanar, at noon on 8th August, having had fine weather the whole of the passage down. Here we landed six returns, and also recruited two boys. H.M.S. "Rapid," by whom we sent letters, was at this island, and we also saw the schooner "Helena," 13 days out from Bundaberg. We stayed at Marau until the 14th, as it was blowing a fresh south-east gale outside, with heavy rain. On the 14th we weighed and stood over to Evu, Island of Malayta, where we landed two boys and recruited two in their place. On the following day we got two more boys, and the vessel was then worked round to Port Adam, a part of the same island, reaching there on the 17th August. The barque left on the 19th, after landing one boy and recruiting one. On the 21st we saw the "Para," with 37 recruits. On the 22nd we anchored in Kui Harbour, Malayta Island, which we left on the 27th August, owing to the ship having her licensed number of islanders on board having had the good luck to land two boys and recruit 23 boys. We worked round to Atta, and landed six. Two of the six returned back in the boats and recruited again. All round this side of the island we experienced nothing but light variable airs and calms, very disheartening weather indeed for a sailing ship. From here we worked Seoh Harbour and Llanga Llanga, having again to leave Llanga Llanga with a full ship. Altogether on this island we recruited 56—55 boys and one "Mary." From Malayta we went to Florida, where we arrived on the 9th September. Here we landed 41 returns, and recruited 10. Leaving Florida we shaped for Savo, where we arrived on the 20th September. After getting one boy, we left again next day for Guadalcanar, where we landed one boy, and proceeded to take in wood and water prior to our leaving for the

* Not printed.

New Hebrides. We left Wanderer Bay for the New Hebrides on 24th September, after a very fair seven weeks' work, having landed 99 returns and recruited 71. In this group we had very fine weather. With the exception of the gale we had while lying in Marau Sound, we experienced nothing but light south-east and north-east winds. We arrived at Santo, New Hebrides, on the 10th October, having had a tedious passage of 16 days from Wanderer Bay, the light winds still prevailing. At Santo we anchored at Palier. From Palier we went to St. Philip's Bay, Island of Santo. Here we saw the "May," five months' out, with 63 recruits. We left Santo for Lacona on the 18th, after landing 19 returns, and recruiting seven boys. Arrived at Lacona on the 19th, at Lakova Bay. Here we landed three boys, and had the misfortune to recruit a "sable reverend," one Maros, who formerly was a teacher in the Melanesian Mission (the seamen's aversion to having a parson on board is proverbial); but for some misdeed or other he had been cashiered, with a promise, however, that if he behaved himself he would be re-instated. Whether he had not behaved himself, or that the mission had shown tardiness in re-instating Maros when he arrived at his place, he offered himself as a recruit, and of course was accepted. He also offered to bring a lot of his countrymen, but not having the power over them that he once held, they would not come. After leaving Lacona he appears to have got sulky at not having any of his own friends with him, and as an excuse to get landed again he pretended madness and conducted himself in such an outrageous manner amongst the other recruits, brandishing a knife and a tomahawk and threatening to kill some one, that the Government agent (Mr. D. Rennie) and myself deemed it prudent to put him in irons, which was accordingly done. Early on the following morning (5th November) Maros broke out of his irons, and before he could be secured he dealt four boys severe blows about the face and head with the one iron on his hand. He was secured again, and on the next day, on his requesting the Government agent to land him, we acceded to his wish, and he was put off at Vathlege Mission Station, Pentecost, where he was known, and we were very glad to get rid of our chaplain. After leaving Lacona, where we recruited 12 boys, touching at Star Peak, landing two there, we arrived at Aoba on 28th October. Worked this island until the 2nd November, and getting only one boy, left for Pentecost. Worked this island until the 8th, getting one recruit. Then shaped for Port Sandwich, Island of Mallicolo. Arrived there next day, and anchored under the South Head; but the next morning the barometer made an extraordinary jump, falling 1 inch in six hours. Weighed anchor and ran into the inner anchorage, and were very glad we had done so, as the wind came round to the northward, and blew almost with hurricane force. We should have had a very poor time of it indeed if we had been caught where we were first anchored. The weather getting finer, we left here on the 15th November. Worked various anchorages on this island, and left for Api on the 19th, having landed 12 returns and recruited 18, 17 boys and one "Mary," five of the 12 returns recruiting again. We arrived at Api on 21st November, and left for Mai on the following day. When passing Diamond Bay, Api, we saw the "Lochiel" anchored there, and were told by a trader that she had 26 recruits. Left Mai on the 22nd for Havannah Harbour, Island of Sandwich, to take in wood and water prior to our leaving for Brisbane. Here we were successful in securing five recruits. Left Havannah for Vila Harbour, where we procured some rice from the Australian New Hebrides Company, and were in every way well treated by the agent, Mr. W. B. King. We left Vila for Tanna on the 28th November, arriving at Tanna (after touching at Erromanga) on the 2nd instant. Here we landed three and recruited three. Left on the same afternoon for Brisbane, having recruited in this group 48, making altogether 119 recruits, 42 of whom have worked in Queensland before, which is a sufficient guarantee that the boys do not think they are going into what some fanatics are pleased to call "slavery." We arrived in Brisbane after a pleasant voyage, and everybody enjoying fairly good health.

No. 38.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received January 30, 1893.)

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Government House, Brisbane,
December 22, 1892.

In my Despatch of the 16th August 1892,* I reported the departure of the Labour Vessel "Helena," from Bundaberg to the Pacific Islands, to recruit labourers,

* Not printed.

and I now do myself the honour to enclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of the report upon her cruise, and of her return to Bundaberg on the 18th ultimo, with ninety (90) Pacific Island labourers, two of whom are women.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Most Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 38.

Brigantine "Helena," Bundaberg,
November 18, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Helena" J. P. Doig master, left Bundaberg for the Solomons on July 20th, 1892, having on board sixty-four (64) male return Islanders and six (6) native boatmen.

Experienced variable and south-east winds during the passage across. Santa Anna Island was sighted on the 9th of August, sailed along the east coast of San Christoval, on the 10th hoisted the black ball and landed nine (9) returns, on the 11th landed (1) more and shaped a course to Marow Sound, where we anchored on the 12th and landed eight (8) returns. Met H.M.S. "Rapid" and the Queensland labour vessel "Empreza"; she was landing and recruiting.

Left Marow Sound on the 15th and made sail for Malayta; on 17th got two (2) recruits, on south-east end of Malayta, and anchored same date at Port Adams on east side of island, where we stayed five days and landed one (1) return, and got (1) recruit. Left on 22nd and anchored same date at Jacka-tacka; watered ship, on 24th landed two (2) returns. On the 25th the ship ran down the recruiters' boat, which was ahead towing her; the ship was struck by a heavy squall, and the boat got athwart her bows and was smashed to pieces. Left on 26th. On 27th, No. 1, B.G. Olesenrai died of chronic tuberculosis; the doctor's instructions had been followed in regard to his treatment; on the same day landed four (4) returns; on the 28th landed three (3) more; on 29th landed four (4), and on the 30th landed three (3), and anchored same day at Uru; stayed seven days, landing seven (7) returns and getting thirteen (13) recruits. Left Uru on September 7th, and arrived same day at Quoy; stayed two days, landing one (1) and recruiting one (1). Left on the 10th and brought up same day at Fochincarra; stopped four days, getting nine (9) recruits and landing two (2) returns. Left on 15th. On 16th, whilst under weigh, got two (2) recruits and anchored same day at Atta Cove; remained six days, landed two (2) returns and got seven (7) recruits. On 22nd recruit No. 9 died of acute dysentery. Left Atta on 23rd, and anchored same day at Urassie; stayed four days and got six (6) recruits, left on 28th, and anchored same evening at Sio, at north-west extreme of island; stopped three days and a half, landed ten (10) returns, left Sio on 2nd of October and anchored at Fue, on west side of island. On the 3rd stayed one day, got three recruits and landed two (2) returns. On the 5th Benny Dungass, one of the native boatmen, deserted; he had asked my permission to go and see his mother and to sleep ashore the previous evening, promising to return at daylight, but he never came back. Left Fue on the 5th, and landed one (1) return as the ship was working to the south-east. On the 6th landed three (3) returns, which were the last, and engaged a boatman in place of Dungass for the round voyage to Bundaberg and back to his place, at two pounds ten shillings (2*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*) per month. In the afternoon anchored at Kwa, got one (1) recruit, and left next morning for Guadalcanar, on the 8th the ship was becalmed off the Send of that island, on the 9th the boats went ashore and bought about one and a half tons of native food; on the 10th got three (3) recruits, the ship standing off and on, bought about a ton of native food; on the 11th got another one (1) recruit. On the 12th, the wind freshening and sea increasing, we had to keep away, on 14th anchored in Beaufort Bay. Left on 15th, and same day anchored in Popau Harbour, on north-west side of island; got wood and water and left on 17th for Florida, where we anchored at Hohenlavoo on west side of island on 20th inst. Met the Sydney trading vessel "Borough-belle," there, also the island trader "Katie." Left on 22nd and anchored same date at Baranango. Left on 23rd and anchored same date at Mandoliana; stayed two and a half days, and got three (3) recruits. Left on 26th, and anchored that evening at Mboli, on east side of island stopped two and a half days, and got fourteen (14) recruits. Left at 1 p.m. of 29th, and anchored same afternoon at Vura; stayed three days, getting thirteen (13) recruits. Weighed anchor at 6 a.m. of 2nd November, and made sail for Sandfly Pass, where we anchored same afternoon, getting twelve (12) recruits in one and a half days, making up

our full complement of ninety (90). On the 3rd I had the woman's compartment reduced one half; it was intended to accommodate eight, but we only had two married couples, so I altered it to meet our requirements. On the 4th took down the black ball and made sail for Guadalcanar, to get wood and water. Anchored on 5th at Popau Harbour on north-west side of island, got wood and water. On the 6th weighed anchor and made sail, and took our departure same afternoon for Bundaberg. Sighted Rennell Island on the 9th inst. Experienced moderate easterly and south-easterly winds during the passage across. Passed Lady Elliott Island on the 16th. Arrived at the Burnett Heads at 4 p.m. of the 18th. I have no complaints to prefer; all the crew appear to be steady, sober men, and are thoroughly conversant with the "Rules and Regulations." The ship requires two (2) boats, nine (9) tanks (200 gallons each), eight snider rifles, one (1) yam pot, one (1) Martingale, one (1) inner jib stay, new poop awning the rails round the poop are all loose and require to be stayed, and the main deck should be caulked or else new decks put in. The allowance of spirits has not been exceeded at any time during the voyage. The following is a list of returns who were landed at other passages than their own:—

No. 38 B.G. Balaboolow, belonging to Vateleno, met some friends and was landed at Marow Sound, at his own request. See Log, page 14; August 12th, 1892.

No. 48 B.G. Jauppo, belonging to Poy, met friends and was landed at Wilanti, Port Adams, at his own request in a canoe. See Log, page 17; August 22nd, 1892.

No. 36 B.G. Soolovah, belonging to Manhav, was landed at Hochincarra, at his own request. See Log, page 26; September 14th, 1892.

Nos. 39 B.G. Mona and 43 B.G. Kaynew, belonging to Orumboorie and Quarrie, were both landed at Atta, at their own request. See Log, page 28; September 17th, 1892.

No. 30 B.G. Labooker, belonging to Sooracea (which is a place in the bush) was landed at Sio with friends, at his own request. See Log, page 32; September 29th, 1892.

No. 31 B.G. Hohendean, who also belonged to Sooracea, was landed, at his own request, with friends at Sio. See Log, page 33; October 2nd, 1892.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR HUGH NEVILLE USSHER,
Government Agent.

To the Immigration Agent, Brisbane.

No. 39.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received February 20, 1893.)

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Toowoomba, January 7, 1893.

I do myself the honour to enclose, for the information of your Lordship, a newspaper cutting giving an account of the recent voyage of the labour schooner "Foam," which illustrates the risks and inconveniences which it seems must occasionally arise in the course of this traffic.

The official report of this cruise will be forwarded when received from the Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.

The Most Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosure in No. 39.

Cutting from the "Telegraph" of 31st December 1892.

RECRUITING VOYAGE.

Labour Schooner "Foam."

Returned Prisoner Shot.

Boats Fired on at Malicolo.

THE labour schooner "Foam" (Captain Norman, Government Agent, North) arrived at Maryborough from a cruise to the New Hebrides, on the 28th instant (says the "News"). She has experienced a successful trip of two and half months' duration, bringing 37 male and two female recruits, or three less than her licensed complement.

The following particulars are gleaned from the log: the first return was landed at Tanna on October 24, and the first recruit obtained at Moona on the 27th. On November 6, at Paama, a return, by name Jimmy Bob, was shot by his native people shortly after landing, and in sight of both boats; he had served about 12 years' imprisonment in Queensland, and was sent on board as a prisoner from Roma gaol. The only motive assigned for the act is that of revenge for some previous misdemeanour. Jimmy was landed at his own special request on the spot, which was, in fact, the one from which he had been recruited, and on leaving shook hands with the boat's crew. On November 14 an interesting event occurred in the birth of a male child, the mother being one of the returns. On November 23, whilst recruiting at Aoba, and with good promise of success, the "Mary Anderson," of Sydney, Captain M'Leod, a vessel engaged in copra trading, came into the harbour, and shortly afterwards the natives were in a helpless state of intoxication. The result was that the Government Agent refused further recruiting, the "Foam" thereby losing a number of boys who had offered themselves as recruits. On November 29 the boats were fired at from behind an ambush by the natives of Anoa, Malicolo. No provocation had been offered, but the attack was of a particularly murderous design. The place is a narrow inlet, hemmed in on three sides by banks, and as the boats were underway they were subjected to a cross fire and a raking fire from astern. The boats' crews returned the fire, but were unable to ascertain with what result, as their assailants were in hiding behind boulders and trees. Fortunately no one in the boats was struck. The supposition is that the attack was made on account of a refusal to supply them with rifles. A few days previously a French cutter had visited the spot and recruited 17 boys, giving in exchange Snider rifles and cartridges; and, as showing how anxious the natives were to possess cartridges, the mate of the "Foam" says that at Tanna he was offered a 1*l.* note in exchange for 10 of them. The last return was landed at North Torres on December 14, and the last recruit obtained at South Torres (Buka Buka) on the 17th. Three other recruits could have been obtained, but it entailed a delay that would have lengthened the return journey more than was considered advisable. The run home occupied 11 days, calm weather being experienced till the 24th, when a strong south-east gale was encountered, lasting till the 26th, during which time the vessel was close reefed. The square sail was carried away, and several of the others torn. Whilst at the islands the vessel experienced light winds and calms, with torrents of rain. Three deaths occurred amongst the returns, but these were boys who were put aboard in a very sickly condition. The recruits are all a fine healthy lot.

No. 40.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 27, 1893.)

[Continued by No. 41.]

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Toowomba, January 19, 1893.

IN my Despatch of the 26th October 1892,* I reported the departure of the labour vessel "Foam," late "Archimedes," from Maryborough to the Pacific Islands, to recruit labourers; and I now do myself the honour to enclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of the report upon her cruise and of her return to Maryborough on the 28th ultimo, with 102 Pacific Island labourers, nine of whom are women.

I have, &c.

The Most Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

P.S.—I shall bring under the notice of the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific the conduct of the captain of the "Mary Anderson," who is alleged to have supplied spirits to the natives of Aoba.

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 40.

APPENDIX B.

Labour Schooner "Foam," Maryborough,

December 28, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Foam" left Maryborough on the 8th October, and White Cliffs on the 10th, with 93 males and nine females, total 102 return islanders for the New Hebrides.

On the 12th October the deck under the boys' boilers was discovered to be on fire, but was quickly got under. The deck was only covered by a thin sheeting of galvanised iron.

I think it would be advisable for all ships to have about 3 inches of cement between the deck and the iron under the fires, and to be compelled to carry force pumps and sufficient length of hose to reach all parts of the ship.

Three deaths occurred during the voyage, viz., Nomborare on the 20th October, Hurrack on the 29th October, and Bisengabo on the 11th November. These boys were in a dying condition from consumption when the ship left, and if it is considered advisable to try to return invalids, I think proper hospital accommodation on deck should be provided.

The first returns were landed at Ganna on the 24th October, and the last at North Torres on the 14th December.

The first recruits were obtained at Moona on the 27th October, and the last at South Torrens on the 17th December, when the ship sailed for Queensland with 37 male and two female recruits, total 39.

A-bock (Jimmy Bob) was landed at his Island, Paama, on the 6th November, and was shot by the natives in sight of the boats, before we were a quarter of a mile off the shore.

While recruiting off Aoba on the 23rd November, Captain McLeod came in with the "Mary Anderson" of Sydney, to load copra from his station there, and shortly afterwards the natives were so drunk I had to forbid recruiting, although we had been promised two the previous day. As the "Mary Anderson" hails from Sydney and Captain McLeod is an Englishman, I think he should be punished for supplying the natives with spirits.

The boats were fired on at Onoa, Mallicolo, on the 29th November; five returns were landed there the previous day, and three of them said they intended to return. No provocation whatever was given. We returned the fire, but could not see whether any shots took effect, as the natives were all under cover.

The "Foam" anchored off the White Cliffs at 1.30 p.m. The health officer, Dr. Harricks, came on board at 2 p.m., and granted the ship pratique, when she proceeded up the Mary River in charge of pilot, mooring at the Queen's Wharf at 6.30 p.m.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROGER NORTH,
Government Agent.

The Immigration Agent, Brisbane.

APPENDIX C.

EXTRACT from the GOVERNMENT AGENT'S LOG, dated 23rd November 1892,
lying off Aoba.

SCHOONER "Mary Anderson," Captain McLeod, in sight, 8.30 a.m. Went ashore in boats, had been promised two recruits on previous day, found all hands were loading copra into "Mary Anderson's" boats, and recruits would not come off until they had finished; boarded "Mary Anderson" on my way back to ship, and saw Captain McLeod for a few minutes, returned to ship at 11.30 a.m. Returned to shore, and found natives all drunk, some of them, including the two probable recruits, helplessly so; informed recruits I would not recruit drunken men; left and sailed along coast easterly, and rejoined ship at 6.15 p.m.

I think some action should be taken to prevent traders supplying drink to the natives in direct opposition to the Act, as the lives of white men visiting the islands while the natives are intoxicated are not safe.

APPENDIX D.

EXTRACTS from the GOVERNMENT AGENT'S LOG of Cases in which seven (7) Islanders were landed elsewhere than at their proper Villages during the last Voyage of the Labour Ship "Foam."

Name of proper Village and Island.	Extracts from Government Agent's Log, showing where landed.
No. 8, M. Moglem, Mundeheen, Tanna.	October 24th.—Landed 12 return Islanders at "Langalie." One return, No. 8, M. Noglem, desired to be landed there, as the people at his own village were at war, and he was afraid to land.
No. 23, M. Winnow, Lowee, Gana.	December 8.—Landed seven returns at Lakona, two of whom, No. 23, M. Winnow, and No. 11, M. Wobart, wished to be landed there, as their friends were here.
No. 11, M. Wabart, Leeona, Gana.	
No. 14, C. Winarona, Black Beach, Gana.	December 9th.—Landed these four returns, viz., No. 14, C. Winarona; No. 7, I. Wegueta; No. 9, I. Waggat; and No. 10, I. Wenna, at "Botassa" at their own request.
No. 7, I. Wegueta, Att Coot, Gana.	
No. 9, I. Waggat, Attecora, „	
No. 10, I. Wenna, Tagora, „	

No. 41.

SIR H..W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 4, 1893.)

MY LORD MARQUESS, Government House, Brisbane, January 20, 1893.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 19th instant,* in which I enclosed copy of the report of the Labour Agent on board the Pacific Islanders recruiting vessel "Foam," which returned to Maryborough on the 28th ultimo, I now do myself the honour to enclose copy of a report on this voyage, dated the 5th instant, by the Immigration Agent, together with an extract from the Government Agent's log, dated 23rd October 1892.

With reference to the latter document I have thought it right to ask the Chief Secretary to consider whether some regulation is not desirable to prevent return labourers who are in a dying state from being embarked on the labour vessels.

I have, &c.
The Most Hon. the Secretary of State (Signed) H. W. NORMAN.
for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 41.

SIR, Pacific Island Labour Office, Brisbane, January 5, 1893.

THE return of the labour ship "Foam" to Maryborough 28th ultimo affords me the honour of reporting upon her recent and first voyage under the Pacific Island Labour Acts.

The ship was certified to have had sufficient space to accommodate one hundred and twenty islanders (120), and licenses were granted to enable the master to recruit forty-two (42) for plantations in the Maryborough and Bundaberg districts.

Gilbert Norman was the master and Mr. Roger North was the Government Agent.

The ship left Maryborough on 8th October last with one hundred and two (102) adults, returning islanders, and (6) children on board, and arrived at Tanna on the 24th October.

Recruiting commenced at Meona on the 27th October and was proceeded with throughout the Hebrides, Banks, Torres, and Solomon Groups, finishing at South Torres

* No. 40.

and Saddle Island on the 17th December, having occupied fifty-two (52) days, during which period thirty-nine (39) recruits were obtained, 37 males and 2 females.

The under-mentioned return islanders died during the passage, viz :—

20th October.—26 Mbgr. Nomborare, Erromango.

29th „ 3 Ing. Hurrack, Mallicolo.

11th November.—24 M. Bisangabo, Malo, of consumption.

On the 17th December the ship took her departure from South Torres for Maryborough, carrying thirty-nine recruits, including—

8 previously employed in Queensland.
2 „ „ „ Samoa.
3 „ „ „ Sandwich.
26 strangers to the Colony.

The recruits hail as follows :—

New Hebrides	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Banks Group	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Torres „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Solomons „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
								—
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
								—

The Government Agent reports that return islander 27 Mbgh A. back (Jimmy Bob) shortly after being landed was shot by the Natives in sight of the boats.

I beg to draw your attention to a paragraph in the accompanying report of Mr. Government Agent North *re* the boys cooking accommodation taking fire, and to a paragraph relating to the treatment of return invalids upon which matter an extract from Mr. North's log is appended hereto.

Seven return islanders were landed elsewhere than at their proper landing-places. It appears from the Government Agent's log that they were thus landed at their own request.

The Government Agent reports that while recruiting off Aoba on the 23rd November the "Mary Anderson" of Sydney arrived and shortly after the Natives were so drunk he had to forbid recruiting. An extract from Mr. North's log is appended hereto.

The Government Agent has made no complaints and the papers are all in order.

I have, &c.

The Under Colonial Secretary,
Brisbane

(Signed) J. O'N. BRENNAN,
for the Immigration Agent.

APPENDIX A.

Extract from Government Agent's log, dated 23rd October, 10 miles S.W. Aneityum :—

"Bisangabo," No. 24, Maryborough list and Hurrack No. 1, Ingham list No. 3, seems to be daily growing weaker, although they are given anything they fancy that is available to eat.

Dr. Harricks told me in Maryborough he did not expect Bisangabo to live until he reached his island. I consider it is a great injury to the trade to send back boys who, if they live to be landed, have to be carried on shore ; and on board ship there being no hospital or means of separating them from the other "returns" they cannot be properly treated, and when too weak to come on deck they endanger the health of the other boys by easing themselves in their bunks.

No. 42.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR F. M. DARLEY
(NEW SOUTH WALES).

SIR,

Downing Street, March 9, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in a report by the Government agent of the recruiting vessel "Foam," belonging to Queensland, which was received in a Despatch

from the Governor of that Colony, it is stated that, while that vessel was off Aoba on the 23rd of November, Captain McLeod came in with the "Mary Anderson" of Sydney to load copra from his station, and that shortly afterwards the natives were so drunk that he had to forbid recruiting.

I am sure that the New South Wales Government will lend their hearty co-operation to the work of preventing abuses in the labour traffic, whether on the sea or on the islands, and I request that I may be informed whether the vessel was licensed, as appears to have been the case, in New South Wales, in which case I would suggest, for the consideration of your Government, that an inquiry should be held into these allegations.

The Officer Administering the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.

No. 43.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 4, 1893.)

MY LORD MARQUESS, Government House, Brisbane, January 20, 1893.

IN my Despatch of the 20th August 1892,* I reported the departure of the labour vessel "Empreza" from Townsville to the Pacific Islands to recruit labourers, and I now do myself the honour to enclose, for the information of your Lordship, reports upon her cruise, and of her return to Townsville on the 14th of last month; namely—

Report by Immigration Agent dated 22nd December 1892, with Appendices A, B, and C, being extracts from the Government Agent's log, and Appendix D, being copy of the report of the cruise, dated 14th December 1892, by Mr. Douglas Rannie Government Agent on the "Empreza," with two enclosures.

Supplementary report on the voyage of the "Empreza" by the Government Agent dated the 19th December 1892.

I have to inform your Lordship that it has seemed to me desirable to send a copy of Mr. Rannie's supplementary report confidentially to his Excellency the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, for his information, and I desire to mention, with reference to the defects reported in the "Empreza" that the repairs and fittings deemed necessary have been attended to under the direction of the Queensland Government shipwright and surveyor.

The Most Honourable
the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Enclosures in No. 43.

SIR, Pacific Island Labour Office, Brisbane, December 22, 1892.

THE return of the labour ship "Empreza" at Brisbane on the 14th instant, affords me the honour of reporting upon her recent and first voyage under the Pacific Island Labour Acts.

The ship was certified to have had sufficient space to accommodate one hundred and fifty-nine (159) islanders, and licences were granted to enable the master to recruit that number for four plantations in the Mackay, Johnstone River, and Ingham districts.

Frederick F. Malcolm was the Master and Mr. Rannie the Government Agent.

The ship left Townsville on the 26th July last with one hundred and fifty-four (154) returning islanders on board, and arrived off Marau Sound, Guadalcanar Island, on the 8th August.

Recruiting commenced at Guadalcanar on the 10th August, and was prosecuted throughout the Solomon and New Hebrides Groups, finishing at Tanna on the 22nd instant, having occupied one hundred and fifteen (115) days, during which period one hundred and nineteen (119) recruits were obtained, 117 male and two females, being an average of little over one recruit per day.

The under-mentioned return islanders died during the passage, viz. :—

28th July, 33 M.Ry. "Blowar," Pentecost.
 17th August, 34 M.Ry. "Lardo," Pentecost.
 23rd August, 35 M.Ry. "Aubela," Aoba (from phthisis).
 16th September, 23 G. "Boonay," Santo.
 14th October, 32 M.Ry. "Tangallans," Pentecost.

On the 2nd instant the ship took her departure from Tanna for Brisbane, carrying one hundred and nineteen (119) recruits, including :—

34 previously employed in Queensland.

1	"	"	Fiji.
3	"	"	Samoa.
2	"	"	Noumea.
5	"	"	Honolulu.

And 74 strangers to the Colony.

The day after the ship arrived in Brisbane one of the islanders named Bab-lip died of acute bronchitis. This islander had been taken from Townsville for return to his island (Mallicolo). On arrival there it was discovered that his tribe was at war with another tribe, consequently he was unable to land, and therefore elected instead to return to Queensland as a recruit.

The remainder (118) of the recruits were passed by the medical officer, Brisbane, duly placed under agreement to the respective indenters, and transhipped to the "Aramac" on 17th instant for conveyance to their respective ports.

The recruits hail as follows :—

Solomon Islands :

Guadalcanar	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Malayta	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
Florida	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Savo	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
							—
							71

New Hebrides :

Santo	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Lacona	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Aoba	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pentecost	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mallicolo	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Api	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sandwich	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Tanna	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
							—
							48
Less one death	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
							—
							47

Total - 118

Five Natives of Tanna were recruited on 24th November at Havanna Harbour, where they had been under engagement with the Caledonienne New Hebrides Company, particulars of which are herewith attached. See Appendix A.

On the 4th November, while the ship was off Devil's Rock, Aoba, recruit No. 79, Morris, having threatened several of the islanders on board with knives, was fastened to a ring-bolt on deck by irons on hand. On 5th November, however, he appears to have broken the irons and attacked and severely injured some of the other islanders on board. Particulars attached hereto. Morris was subsequently landed at Pentecost at his own request, where he went to the mission station of Vathuga. See Appendix B.

Twelve return islanders were landed elsewhere than at their proper landing places. From the attached report of Mr. Government Agent Rannie, it would appear these islanders were landed thus at their own request. The remaining return islanders were put ashore at their proper landing places. See Appendix C.

See Appen-
dix D.

I beg to draw your attention to a paragraph in the accompanying report of Mr. Government Agent Rannie *re* the condition of the ship.

Mr. Rannie speaks well of the conduct of the ship's company, he has no complaints to make, and the papers are all in good order.

The Under Colonial Secretary,
Brisbane.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. GALLOWAY,
Immigration Agent.

APPENDIX A.

EXTRACT from GOVERNMENT AGENT'S LOGBOOK *re* five Natives of Tanna recruited at Havana Harbour (Sandwich Islands).

Date of Log, 26th November 1892.—Called in at the French Company's stores at noon. Five Natives of Tanna recruited, viz., 113 Yaloo, 114 Yahecloo, 115 Yatta, 116 Yaooley, 117 Navow. They completed their term of engagement with the French Company over a year ago, and have since then been living with their Sandwich relatives. They are all in possession of rifles. I will here attach a certificate from the manager of the French Company to the effect that these boys are not now in their employ.

Copy of Certificate. (Translation.)

Five Tanna men, Yaloo, Yahecloo Yatta, Yaooley, and Navow, having finished their engagements with the Caledonian Company of New Hebrides, at Port Havannah, desire to go in the "Empreza" to Queensland; not seeing any reason to prevent them, I authorise them to embark.

(Signed) J. GAUCHEE.

APPENDIX B.

EXTRACTS from GOVERNMENT AGENT'S LOG *re* violent conduct of Recruit 79, Morris, while lying off Aoba.

Date of Log, 4th November 1892.—At 6 a.m. I was called by some of the recruits to see No. 79, Morris. After doing his utmost to get the ship to go back to Lacona and land him, as he regrets having recruited, and having failed in his requests, he pretended he was mad, and threatened several of the boys with knives, so I had him made fast by irons on one hand to a ring bolt in the deck and under the awning. His madness, I believe, is only pretence.

5th November.—While the boys were scrubbing out their quarters below at 6 a.m. No. 79, Morris, broke the irons confining him and ran amuck among the boys with the broken irons. He severely wounded Mhy 6 Hasalacon, laying his scalp open to the skull in four places, cutting his lip open and knocking two teeth out. I sewed up the wounds, and the boy is now getting on well. Three other boys were less seriously injured. On putting Morris in irons again he became quite docile and spoke rationally. I believe he is only scheming to be put ashore again. He asked me to have him landed at the Rev. Mr. Palmer's station at the north end of the island. He says he got a letter from Mr. Palmer when at Aoba telling him to desert from the vessel.

6th November.—About midnight last it was reported by one of the Gala recruits that the Malayta men were hatching a plot to murder 79, Morris. So a watch was kept over him all night, and to-day Captain Malcolm decided, with my approval, to land Morris, at his own request, at the mission station on this island. Accordingly, at 6 a.m. got under weigh, and went to the mission station of Valhugo, arriving there and lowering the boats at 1 p.m. I wrote the Rev. Mr. Palmer a letter, the copy of which I attach with the letter sent by Mr. Palmer to Morris or Maros. Maros or Morris was welcomed by all at the station, and appeared to be well acquainted with all whom we met. I do not believe he is in the least mentally affected; but I believe him to be a great rogue.

APPENDIX C.

EXTRACT from GOVERNMENT AGENT'S LOG, of cases in which Twelve ISLANDERS were landed at other than their proper villages during the last voyage of the Labour Ship "EMPRESA."

Name, Proper Village and Island.	Extracts from Government Agents' Log, showing where landed.
No. 22, "Sombatty," Malagat, Guadalcanar.	15th September 1892. Landed "Sambatty," No. 22, at Holey, at his own request.
B. 1. "Seeuppo," Marapui, San Christoval. „ 15, "Oe Tannier," Sandfly Pass, Florida. „ 16, "Mormoris," " „ 18, "Gowsee," Olavuka, " „ 23, "Condo," Sopi, Isabel. „ 24, "Vow," Olavuka, Florida. „ 25, "Lapee," " „ 26, "Vue," " „ 27, "Takee," Buka, " „ 28, "Samboo," "	15th September. Still wind,—bound at Holey, and on account of this a canoe came from the Sandfly Pass for the remainder of the Florida returns. I advised them to stay and go home with the ship, but they were too impatient of the delay. So I got the mission teacher to certify that the canoe came specially for them. We then took them ashore to the mission station, where they embarked in the canoe, which was a very large one. Ten boys and boxes went in it. It could easily have carried twice the number. The boys are—B. 1. Seeuppo a native of San Christoval, who goes here at his own request, as he wishes to attend school; B. 15, Oe Tannier; 16, Mormoras; 18, Gowsee; 23, Condo; 24, Yow; 25, Lapee; 26, Vue; 27, Takee; 28, Samboo. Condo went for the same reason as Seeuppo. <i>Copy of Mission Teacher's Certificate attached.</i>
Mek 27, "Poopoor," Loro, Mallicolo.	17th November. Landed No. 27, Poopoor, at Vow at his special request.

CERTIFICATE OF MISSIONARY TEACHER.

Holey, Island of Florida, September 15th, 1893.

I HEREBY certify that a canoe has come from Sandfly Passage to take home the Natives of that place, and Oliduka, from the "Empresa" (barque), and the under-mentioned Natives all go at their own request. Seeuppo, a native of San Christoval, goes to friends, as also does Condo, of Isabel. Those of Sandfly Pass and Olevuka are: de Tannier, Mormoras, Gowsee, Vow, Lapee, Vue, Takee, and Samboo.

(Signed) MATLAS RUGEIGEIA,
 Missionary Teacher.

Witness, DOUGLAS RANNIE, G.A.

APPENDIX D.

To the IMMIGRATION AGENT, Brisbane.

"Empresa" Barque, Brisbane,
 December 14, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour this day to report the arrival of the "Empresa" barque, which left the port of Townsville on the 26th day of July last with 154 return islanders for the Solomon and New Hebrides Groups.

We arrived at Guadalcanar on the 8th of August, and then the work of landing and recruiting islanders was begun. Two recruits were obtained at Guadalcanar, and the ship proceeded to Malayta, where 56 Natives were recruited. From Malayta we went to Florida and there got 12 recruits. Savo was the next island we touched at and one native recruited. From Savo we returned to Guadalcanar, where we landed more returns, took in firewood and water, and on the 24th September took our departure for the New Hebrides Group, where we arrived on the 10th of October, touching first at Santo. Here returns were landed and seven recruits obtained. Our next place of call was Lacona, where 13 men were recruited, but one had to be landed again for reasons mentioned in my log. We called next at Maralaba and did no recruiting. Next at Aoba, one man recruited. From Aoba we went to Pentecost, and from there we had one

recruit. From Pentecost we sailed to Mallicolo, and there got 18 recruits. Then at Api, one man recruited. From Api we went to Mai, and from Mai to Havanah Harbour. At Havanah Harbour five men recruited. We called in at Vila Harbour. Then at Erromango and next at Tanna on the 2nd instant, where we landed the last of our returns, got three recruits, and at 2.30 p.m. the same day took our departure for Brisbane with 119 recruits on board.

With regard to the recruiting of islanders, I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that no entry was made in the log book in the space left for the memo. to the Government Agent, prior to my leaving Brisbane. My Despatch to Townsville was so hurried that I failed to notice this, else I would have called attention to it before leaving, and I would then no doubt have been notified as to any change in the mode of judging the age of recruits or standard measurement required by the Health Officer. The Inspector of Islanders in Townsville filled in the "Memo. for the Government Agent." but said nothing about the standard measurement for recruits, and not till I arrived in the New Hebrides did I know of any change, and when I saw in a newspaper report that his Excellency the Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, had been pleased to raise the standard measurement to 32 inches round the chest. Now I have passed several Solomon Islanders, who, to my belief, are well over 16 years of age, and their chest measurement is under 32 inches. The Natives of Malayta are invariably of low stature, but they are strong in physique, and are built in proportion to their stature.

Among the Solomon Islands, and before I saw the above-mentioned report, I adhered to the usual method we had in the past of judging a boy's age, and I trust the omission to notify me on this particular point will not cause the rejection of any of the boys by the Health Officer.

With respect to the voyage everything went smoothly; the regulations were obeyed most carefully, and no breach of discipline in the smallest degree occurred.

As to the condition of the ship, the shipping inspector will be able to render a more accurate account.

From personal observation I may state that the hull of the vessel seems to be very good, but the sails, awnings, and rigging are in a disgraceful condition. The poop, deck, and roof of the cabin is entirely rotten. There is insufficient ventilation in the Government Agent's cabin, and I have been unable to occupy it on account of the water leaking through the deck and roof. The main hatch is encroached upon by the yam pots, which causes a continual leakage of water into the main hold. I would suggest that the yam pots be placed in the fore part of the forward deck-house.

For fuller particulars of the voyage I have the honour to refer you to my log book, which I herewith deliver to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS RANNIE,
Government Agent.

MEMORANDUM to the Rev. J. PALMER, Pentecost.

"Empreza" Barque, Pentecost,
November 6, 1892.

SIR,

HEREWITH I land this day at your mission station of Vathuga, Pentecost, one Maroos, a native of Lacona, and formerly a teacher employed under the Melanesian Mission. I consider I ought to acquaint you with all the circumstances of his case. On the 20th of last month he came on board this vessel at Lacona, and made an offer to sell his countrymen to the ship at 10s. per head. The same day he recruited himself, saying he would bring a large crowd of his former pupils if he was paid 10s. per head for them in Queensland. None of his people accompanied him. After leaving Lacona he repented having recruited, and fretted to get back. To gain that object he made many excuses. First he showed me a letter at Aoba, dated 14th October, and signed by you; in which he says, you advise him to desert from the ship. Another time he told me you threatened him, in the same letter, that if he recruited for Queensland you would send a man-of-war after him and bring him back. These tales having no effect towards his desired object, he then accused the other recruits on board of conspiring to murder him. Next he threatened to commit suicide, and also to murder some one on board. I then considered it necessary to put him in irons. He was confined by one hand only, and was treated all along with great kindness and consideration, being fed from the cabin

table, as he refused to mess at any time with the ordinary passengers on board. Yesterday morning, however, Maroos broke his irons and ran amuck among the boys, cutting down four of them and very seriously wounding one. On again securing Maroos he became quite quiet and sensible, and begged to be put ashore at your station here. The captain with my approval agreed to comply with his request, as I believe his life would be endangered by his remaining on board among such a crowd of Malayte men. We have had to keep a watch over him all night in fact, so as to frustrate any attempt at revenge for injuries received by the Solomon Islanders.

I have known Maroos ever since December of 1884, when I bought the land from him at Onga-bull, Lacona, in which I buried the late Captain Macquaker. And in my estimation Maroos is one of the most cunning, subtle, and hypocritical rogues to be found in the islands. He lies like the devil, and blasphemes like a blackguard.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS RANNIE,
Government Agent.

"Empreza" Barque, Brisbane,
December 19, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to furnish you with a supplementary report on the voyage of the "Empreza," in which I can deal more particularly on the incidents of the voyage, and observations on the islands and Natives, &c., and at greater length, than the limits of my first official report will allow, and without the statistics necessary in my official log book.

On the 25th of July last, I took charge of the "Empreza" (barque) at Townsville, and on the following day (the 26th) we left with 154 Natives on board, bound on a landing and recruiting voyage to the Solomon Islands and New Hebrides Groups.

After a fine weather passage down, we anchored in Marow Harbour, Gaudalcanar Island, on the 9th of August. Immediately after the anchor was dropped, the black ball was run up to the mainmast head, and the business of the voyage began. We found the Natives here emigrating in large numbers to the Island of Malayta. On making inquiries as to the cause of this exodus, I was informed that, very many years ago refugees were coming over in small numbers in canoes, from the Alita Bay district in Malayta, driven from their homes by the more powerful inland tribes, during their internecine wars. These refugees were permitted to settle about the Marow Sound by the Natives of Gaudalcanar; but generations have passed away since the first refugee settlers arrived, so that at the present time there is a large population all around Marow of Natives of Malayta origin. And for some time past these Natives have been keeping regular communication with Malayta, and their large war canoes come and go at pleasure. The Natives of Malayta have been making Marow of late years a place of call and rendezvous, on their fighting expeditions against the Natives of San Christoval. The Gaudalcanar people, now waking up to the danger and menace to themselves, arising from this rapidly increasing alien population, have sent out orders that all these people must quit and return to their own country before the end of next moon. There is now a great mustering of the tribes, and the Natives tell me they expect to have a big fight.

Very many families have left, many are still going; but there are numbers who assure me that they will fight for the land they have acquired. On account of this impending war the ship could only get two recruits. The Gaudalcanar men fight with spear, tomahawk, and rifle. The Malayta men, besides these weapons, use bows with poisoned arrows. A firm of traders in Marow, of Swedish origin, supplies the Natives on both sides with a plentiful stock of rifles and ammunition.

On the fourth day of our stay in Marow, H.M.S. "Rapid" and the Queensland schooner "Helena" came into the harbour and anchored about a mile from us. The weather was squally outside, and as there was nothing to be done we passed the time in visiting one another. On the 14th of August we left Gaudalcanar, and ran over to Malayta, and on the 17th anchored in Port Adam. A stranger would be surprised at the fluency with which great numbers of the children and young men and girls talk English here. And they tell me they just picked it up from Natives who have returned from Queensland and Fiji. One young fellow who could talk English very well, and who is the son of the late Chief here (Palanga), informed me that he had been kidnapped by the French schooner "Marie," but he was taken from her by the man-of-war in the New Hebrides, and brought home. He said he had been invited with others to spend the night on board the "Marie,"

then at anchor in Port Adam, and when they awoke in the morning they were far out to sea. While lying here a large canoe came close to the ship and asked us to come and anchor at this place, or send our boats there, but the Acting-Chief of Port Adam, who was on board of us, angrily ordered the canoe away, and told us that the Natives further up the coast wanted the lives of some white men in revenge for the damage done to their property by H.M.S. "Royalist." On Port Adam the Melanesian Mission has placed a Native teacher, but he has not been long enough to make any impression as yet.

On the 19th we left Port Adam, and sailed northward. At night a canoe came off to the ship, and pointed to a place ashore where the Natives said men wished to recruit in the morning. The conduct of the English-speaking Native in the boat was very suspicious. He would not come aboard, nor would he promise to act as interpreter ashore. However, we hove to all night, and in the morning sure enough a smoke was curling up on the beach. It was on a sandy patch between two high and densely wooded cliffs; But on looking through the marine glasses we could plainly see numbers of Natives running out from the scrub on either side every now and then to replenish the fires, and then running back to conceal themselves. I judged it was not safe to allow the boats to go ashore, as we were certain the Natives were attempting to draw us into an ambush, and those in Port Adam affirm that these Natives are very well supplied with ammunition, the proceeds of the plunder made when F. Howard was murdered by them at Ugi some months ago. We passed Uru Harbour on Sunday the 21st, and saw the "Para" (brig) lying at anchor there. The Government Agent and captain came out to visit us. On the 22nd we anchored in Qui Harbour, where, some few years ago, the Queensland vessel "Janet Stewart" was captured by the Natives and burned, and also where the Fiji vessel "Borealis" was taken, and all on board at the time murdered. The actual murderers are there still. I know one fellow well, who boasts that he killed the Government Agent of the "Janet Stewart." They have changed a little for the better now, but yet are not to be trusted. And while the ship lies at anchor there, recruits or return islanders from any other part of the island will not sleep at night without a tomahawk, long knife, or some other weapon beside them. During the five days we lay there a mob of bushmen remained at the mouth of the river which runs into the sea about one mile from the harbour. We called in to see them, as they were signalling the ship with fires; but we found they had an ambush laid for us. The recruiting boat went right abreast of where the Natives were signalling, but I with the covering boat entered the mouth of the river and had the ambushed Natives in the rear, and so frustrated an attack. After that the Chief of the "salt-water" people (Garea) begged of us not to return there, as he said if anything serious happened he might come in for the blame and after punishment. Most of the recruiting work was done in the early morning here, the boats starting away about daylight and attending the Native markets. At these markets, which were always held up the rivers, the "bush people" meet the "salt water people," and there the agriculturists barter their yams, taro, betel-nut, fruits, &c., for the fish, shells, and shell-money of the fishermen. The women do all the buying and selling, while the men stand by with their arms ready to do battle for their women folk in the event of a row, which not unfrequently takes place. We left Qui on the 27th with as many recruits on board as the ship could then accommodate. On the 30th we anchored in Loo Harbour, close to the Gara. While here I was laid up with an attack of island fever, contracted by having so much boating in the very early morning, among the mangrove swamps edging the rivers, for the last few days. On the 3rd of September we were glad to leave Loo, having taken in a large supply of wood and water. And on the 5th we landed at Langa-linga in Alita Bay on the west coast. Here we saw a large new settlement of the Natives who left Marow by order of the Gaudalcanar people. The salt water Natives here all live on small islands, with fortifications all round, built of coral and stones, with narrow entrances round about, allowing the admission of one boat or canoe only at a time. No Natives live on the coast line of the mainland. These Natives live on the proceeds of their fishing, which they barter with the bush people in the same manner as the Natives of Qui. Langa-linga is the great mint in this part of the group for the manufacture of native money. We left Langa-linga and Malayta on the 9th, having taken 56 recruits off that island alone.

The Natives of Malayta as a rule are short, wiry people, light complexioned with wavy hair in many instances, and closely resemble the Malays in appearance. They pronounce the name of the island "Ma-ratta." On the 9th September, the same day we left Malayta, we anchored at Holey in the Island of Florida. The ship was weather bound for six days at Holey, but most of the time the boats were working. The Melanesian Mission steamer called in on the 14th. We managed to get away from

Holey on the 16th, and anchored the same day at Boli. Fish are very plentiful here, and I shot large quantities with dynamite for our recruits and returns. The Natives of Florida are not afraid of sharks, as they will not touch human beings here; they believe. But while fishing in Boli a large shark grabbed one of the Natives who was under my boat and lacerated him horribly. His countrymen would give him no assistance, as they said he must have committed some sin, and God had ordered the shark to punish him. The whole of Florida is almost completely under the influence of the missionaries of the Melanesian mission. On the 19th the Rev. Mr. Cummins took dinner with us. And he remarked that the only objectionable feature he could see in the labour trade was, that vessels often took away some of their most promising pupils from the schools. The following day, the 20th, we left Florida with 12 recruits from there, and made for Savo, where we anchored the same night; again coming across the "Para." We expected to get native food at Savo in the shape of yams, taro, bread-fruit, plantains, bananas, and other fruits; but we got very little. Formerly we used to get eggs in such quantities here that I have seen casks and cases filled with them; but this time we only got a few dozens. We saw very few Natives, as most of the men were away on one of their head-hunting expeditions, they being the great skull hunters of those parts. One recruit, however, was obtained at Savo; and on the 21st we returned to Gaudalcanar, but this time to the N.W. end. We anchored the same evening in Yarrow Bay. The "Para" had again got before us, and we found her anchored there. Next morning we left and went on to Wanderer Bay where we anchored on the 23rd. This bay takes its names from the yacht "Wanderer," which was here sometime during the fifties; and the owner, Mr. Boyd, was killed here. The crew on board said the Natives murdered Mr. Boyd. But there are Natives here to-day who say that Mr. Boyd was not murdered by a Native or Natives, but by one of his own crew. However, it is well known he went ashore shooting pigeons and never returned. He had a very large sum of money on board. And it is said that money was not forthcoming when the "Wanderer" went ashore on the coast of New South Wales.

We found that two white men were prospecting here for gold, but I do not know with what success, as I did not visit them. Several years ago, I accompanied Mr. Downs of Townsville while prospecting here. We found large quartz reefs with iron pyrites, and the country has every appearance of a mineral-bearing one. Ever since Mr. Downs and I were there the Natives have been in the habit of taking off specimens to every passing ship. Hence the reason, I believe, of the white men now prospecting here. We filled up with wood and water here; took in a fair supply of native food, and on the evening of the 24th we sailed for the New Hebrides, with 71 Solomon Island recruits on board, and 52 New Hebrides returns. With regard to the islanders themselves and their characters, I have always found the Natives of Malayta to be exceedingly treacherous; and it will be a long time before they are tamed down. Those of Florida were a few years ago similar to the Malayta people, but now they have so been brought under the influence of the mission, that I would not have the slightest hesitation in going from end to end of Florida, with no other weapon than an umbrella. But the Natives of Savo and Gaudalcanar are by far the most intelligent and handsome in appearance. They are a fine race of people. Although great warriors and renowned head hunters among themselves, I have never known them to interfere with white men, nor to murder but one white man; and he was killed through his own folly by committing a breach in their social law, the penalty of which is death. We did not touch at San Christoval this trip; but from past experience I can liken the Natives of that island to those of Malayta, inveterate cannibals, bloodthirsty and treacherous savages.

After a fortnight's beat in the S.E. we anchored on the 10th of October at Santo in the New Hebrides. We went ashore at Galier at the mission station of the Rev. Mr. McDonald, and here we landed some returns. The Natives informed us that Mr. McDonald had left for Sydney. They also said that many of them wished to go to Queensland, but that Mr. McDonald had told them that he had made arrangements with the Queensland Government that any boys leaving Santo during his absence would be put in gaol on their arrival in Queensland, and, after being punished there, would be returned to Santo. The Natives told us the same tale for miles along the coast, and they would not believe me when I told them the missionary's statement was a lie. Hence we got no recruits from the coastal tribes, but five bushmen recruited from a tribe which came from inland. When the Natives here become better acquainted with the Queensland labour trade, by information derived from return islanders and others, I am sure that the influence and teaching of the "Messenger of Truth" (?), who would gain an ascendancy over the Natives by false statements, will be futile indeed. We left Galier on the 13th

and anchored in St. James or Big Bay on the 15th, and here we fell in with the labour vessel "May." A very fine fresh water river runs into this bay, named the Jordan; a few miles up which are said to be the remains of an early Spanish settlement, which the Spaniards had named the New Jerusalem. We got when at Galier a number of cooking utensils of pottery ware very much resembling that of Moorish workmanship, and I have no doubt the Natives learned the art of making them from the early Spanish settlers, as I have never seen them made in any other of the South Sea Islands. Two more recruits were got here, and on the 18th we left and made for Santa Maria, where we anchored the next day, the 19th. Here we recruited a Native who formerly used to be a teacher, and had the charge of the church here, and was in some degree of Holy Orders, under the Melanesian Mission, but the Bishop disrated him some time ago for having adopted and cleared out with another man's wife. He was one of the most consummate rogues I have met in the islands, and they are not a few. Some few years ago, when I stood by the grave and read the burial service over the late Captain McQuaker, this man stood beside me with a white surplice on, and after I had finished, he went through the Church of England service in the native language. "Mr. Maros," as he called himself, recruited with us this time, and to spite the missionaries for not reinstating him, he offered to sell his former pupils and countrymen for 10s. per head. We took none of his people, and he began to rue having recruited, and could not stand being treated as an ordinary native on board; so after some days he wished to be put ashore, which desire we refused to comply with. He then pretended he was mad, and ran a-muck among the other passengers, so at last we put him ashore at the Rev. Mr. Palmer's station. At Loosolava, Santa Maria, we got 12 recruits, and we were visited by three young white men who have started trading here, but are really doing nothing. They say they were brought down under false pretences. On the 26th we sailed for Maralaba or Star Peak, where we arrived next day, but only went ashore to land two returns. On the 28th we arrived at Aoba and anchored at Dhui-Dhui. We found a great many traders all along the coast. They all had the same complaint, none of them could make a living. The Natives were too lazy to bring in the cocoanuts to make copra. They only brought in sufficient to keep the traders employed. We could get little or no native food, and the Natives told us, that now there are so many traders on the island, that they can always get whatever they want for cocoa-nuts, which they have no trouble with, except to carry it to the traders' station; that they only require to plant yams and fruit for their own more pressing necessities. They spend most of their time in lolling about in the water and under the shade of the trees. I would advise no vessel now to depend on getting a supply of native food among the islands, as we have found the same state of affairs all over. And all vessels before leaving Queensland should take in a full supply of rice for the whole trip, and leave no margin for native food. The most plentiful supply of native food we got this trip was at Santa Maria. But there the natives will not sell you more than a certain quantity, as they are very careful and make provision against bad seasons. They have stores of bread-fruit and nuts that keep for seasons. The bread-fruit is dried and smoked till it is harder than ship-biscuits; these are rolled in leaves and hung like hams in a farmer's kitchen all over the roofs of their huts. On the 30th October we anchored at Bices Roads, Aoba, and went ashore to call on M. Moosoo, a French trader. But we found his house locked up, and his employees, who were sitting in front of the house, told us Moosoo had shot a native and had to clear for his life. At the same time they told us of the murder of owner M. Pana and the master of the cutter "Constantine," by the crew and return islanders on board. That the crew and return islanders had gone off in the boats, and the "Constantine" was now a wreck on the coast of Aurora. We left Aoba on the 2nd November and sighted the cutter "Consul"; Captain Marten boarded us and said he was making inquiries into the murder of M. Pana on behalf of the French Company. The same day we fell in with and boarded the "Meranda-belle" flying the American flag, Mr. Eugene Wilber, the owner, in charge. He said he was recruiting for anybody and trading generally. He informed us that two of the men implicated in the double murder on board the "Constantine" had gone away on board the Queensland schooner "Ariel," as the natives of Aoba were going to kill them. On the 4th November we anchored at Batenspuy, Pentecost. I met quite a large number of Natives here; they were in a great state of excitement, daily expecting the French war vessel in to punish them for the "Constantine" massacre. It was here the tragedy occurred, and they were not backward in giving me particulars.

The story is this. Some few years back, a vessel came from Honolulu to land return islanders all through the group. Instead of landing them at their own islands, this

vessel put one-half of the returns ashore at Havanah harbour, Efate Island, and the other half at Port Sandwich, Mallicolo, and sailed away leaving them to starve or get to their own islands the best way they could. M. Pana, then keeping a store in Havanah harbour, employed a large number of these natives on a two years' agreement, with a promise to land them at their own islands when their term of agreement expired. I have known M. Pana intimately for years; and to my own knowledge, M. Pana treated his employees with cruel and brutal severity. M. Pana did not abide by the contract he made with these men till long after their term had expired. Then, when it suited him, he chose to take them home himself. Some ten or so belonged to Pentecost. M. Pana's brother tells me he begged of him not to go, as everyone around Havanah Harbour said he would certainly be killed. But M. Pana said, if he remained at home now he would be laughed at, and people would say he was afraid. And so he went, never to return. He had often threatened these men, while working for him, with his revolver, and had fired shots close past their heads. And they had been heard to say "that when they fired they would not miss." All these men were armed with the best American rifles. M. Pana anchored at Patenapuy, Pentecost, with the "Constantine," but the Natives could not give me the exact date. They lay there for a day, and the next morning orders were given to heave up the anchor. When one of the Natives on board, son of the chief in the next bay, requested that they should be put ashore now that they had arrived at their own place, M. Pana said he would not land them till he had worked Aoba and Aurora for copra. The Native insisted on being put ashore with his countrymen there and then. M. Pana lost his temper, and struck the native on the back of the neck with some sharp instrument, drawing blood. The native immediately ran to his quarters, got his rifle, and shot M. Pana dead. M. Pana fell down the cabin steps, and the master of the vessel ran on deck and shot one of the crew, an Aoba man, in the shoulder; but the master fell immediately, riddled with bullets, for all had now their rifles in their hands. They then killed and threw overboard a native of Santo because he sided with the white men. The plunder was then equally divided. The Pentecost men took one boat and went ashore. The anchor was then slipped, and the "Constantine" was taken over to Aoba by two Aoba men and two Malo men. And that is the account as given me by the Natives here, and I think it is correct. No one was surprised at the murder of M. Pana, not even his own brother.

We got one recruit at Pentecost, and left on the 7th for Port Sandwich, Mallicolo, where we anchored on the 9th. Here we were very hospitably entertained by Captain Gaspard, who very kindly took us all over the coffee plantation of the French Company, for which Company Captain Gaspard acts as general manager here. They have 30,000 coffee trees now bearing fruit, and most of them very heavily laden. Besides the coffee, they have large tracts of land under maize. I am sorry to say that, here as elsewhere, I find the Natives ill-treated and unpaid by the French. Not only by individual Frenchmen, but by the French Company also. We left Port Sandwich on the 15th and ran along the coast to the northward, landing returns and recruiting. We anchored one day in Port Stanley. We left Mallicolo on the 17th, with 18 recruits from that island. We landed on Api on the 21st, and landed returns running along the coast. One man recruited at Api. On the 23rd, we went ashore at Mai, and landed one return. The boat's crew helped him to carry his effects into a shed, in which we saw a lot of goods stored. We were told the goods belonged to the Rev. Mr. P. Milne. I noticed among them several cases marked "beer," one case of "Old Tom gin," two large bags of shot, and eight boxes of percussion caps for Enfield rifles. The ammunition, I am told by the Natives, the missionary exchanges with them for arrowroot. Most of the goods I noticed had Mr. Milne's name attached to them. I am informed also, on good authority, that a trader on Api by mistake opened a case addressed to a missionary on that island, and found it packed with rifles and ammunition. Many of the traders accuse the missionaries of competing with them.

On the 24th we anchored in Havanah Harbour to paint ship and get ready for our homeward voyage. While here we got five recruits. On the 27th we went into Vila Harbour to get an extra supply of rice as a "stand by," although we have a good 30 days' supply still on board. We learned that the "Lochiel" had put in here and remained for four days with Mr. Hammond, the Government Agent, under the doctor's care, he having been stabbed by a return islander on board. We sailed for Erromango and Tanna on the 28th. Arriving at Erromango on the 1st of December, we went ashore, landed one return; called on the Rev. Mr. Robertson; found all well; went on board, and made for Tanna, arriving there the next day. We went ashore at Sangalee and landed the last of our returns, and got three recruits, returning to the ship at

2.30 p.m., and took our departure for Queensland with 117 male and two female recruits. Of these 47 are old hands, some returning for the third or fourth time, evidence sufficient to show the favourable views the Natives have of their employment in Queensland. There is not the slightest doubt, notwithstanding what missionaries and others may say, the South Sea Islanders benefit greatly, not only physically but also morally, by their short stay in Queensland. And one has only to compare the appearance of the fine healthy look about a shipload of return islanders with that of a load of recruits to mark the vast improvement three years will have worked. A stranger coming on board this vessel would have been astonished at what he would have heard and seen while we had our returns on board. Every night before going to bed three-fourths of our returns gathered together and sang several hymns in good English, and with splendid harmony and melody; they would also read a portion of the New Testament and offer up prayers in their broken English most devoutly to the Creator. This has been taught them on the Queensland plantations by ladies and gentlemen, their masters and mistresses, many of whom have devoted themselves to this work. Such evidences of Christianity I have never witnessed during all the years I have cruised among the New Hebrides, where the missionaries are making such an outcry against the Queensland labour traffic. They say there are thousands in this group pleading for Christianity. How do they respond to this distressing cry? In the largest island in the group (Santo) the church contributes to the maintenance of two missionaries. Where are they to-day? I asked the Natives. "Gone to Sydney." When will they be back? "In about a year; they are away for holidays." On Mallicolo, the next largest island, the church contributes to the maintenance of three. They also have gone to Sydney or some other part of Australia for holidays. But I saw three large churches of the French Jesuit priests, and the priests hard at work too, while the Presbyterian missionaries are minding other people's affairs. When I went to Api I asked for the missionary there. He also had gone to Australia for holidays. The missionary at Tongoa had also gone for holidays to Norway or Sweden. The Queensland labour trade has more attraction evidently for these reverend gentlemen, from the noise they make about it, than the work in "the Lord's Vineyard."

I find the new regulations to work admirably. During the whole voyage they were strictly observed to the letter, and everything went smoothly and without a hitch. There was no unpleasantness even of any kind experienced in carrying them out, and there is nothing in them to deter honest, straightforward recruiting in any way. They are good all round for owners, masters, South Sea Islanders, and all concerned.

After a fine-weather passage we arrived in Brisbane on the 14th December.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS RANNIE,
Government Agent.

The Immigration Agent, Brisbane.

No. 44.

SIR H. W. NORMAN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 4, 1893.)

MY LORD MARQUESS,

Toowoomba, January 24, 1893.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 20th instant,* I have the honour to forward for your Lordship's information copies of a licence and return, and also of the health officer's certificate, of the labour vessel "Empreza," which left Brisbane for the New Hebrides on the 14th of January instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

The Most Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosures in No. 44.

Schedule E.

SHIPMASTER'S LICENCE.

In pursuance of the provisions of "The Pacific Island Labourers Acts, 1880-1892," I hereby authorise the ship known as the "Empreza," of 237 tons register, to be

employed in carrying islanders between the Pacific Islands and Queensland, provided that such ship does not at any one time carry more than 159 islanders.

Given under my hand, at Brisbane, the ninth day of January 1893.

(Signed) J. O'N. BRENNAN,
for the Immigration Agent.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH,
Chief Secretary.

PROHIBITION under Regulation No. 19 of 20th May 1892.

RECRUITING is forbidden at the Group known as the Santa Cruz Islands, and at the Island of Tongoa, in the New Hebrides; also at any place or island within the German sphere of influence in the Western Pacific; that is to say, any place or island lying to the west, north-west, or north of the conventional line of demarcation agreed upon by the declaration made by the Governments of Great Britain and the German Empire, and signed at Berlin on the 6th of April, 1886, and which line of demarcation is as follows:—

Starting from the north-east coast of New Guinea at a point near Mitre Rock on the 8th parallel of south latitude, being the boundary between the German and British Possessions on that coast, and following that parallel to its intersection with the 154th degree of east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 7° 15' south latitude and 155° 25' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 7° 15' south latitude and 155° 35' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 7° 25' south latitude and 156° 40' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 8° 50' south latitude and 159° 50' east longitude; thence by a line to a point situate in 6° north latitude and 173° 30' east longitude; and thence by a line to a point situate in 15° north latitude and 173° 30' east longitude.

(Signed) J. O'N. BRENNAN,
for the Immigration Agent.

RETURN of VESSEL licensed to introduce PACIFIC ISLANDERS on 9 January 1893.

Name of Ship—"Empreza."
No. of Trip—2.
Tonnage—237.
Name of Agents—Aplin Brown & Co.
Name of Master—F. F. Malcolm.
Name of Government Agent—A. C. Cecil.
Number of officers (inclusive of captain)—Three.
Number of crew, Europeans—Nine (including cook).
Number of crew, Polynesians—Five.
Date of licence—9th January 1893.
Limit of voyage—Four months.
Number of islanders ship licensed to carry—One hundred and fifty-nine (159).
Names of intended employers—W. H. Swallow (60), F. & A. Neame (39), Jas. Mackenzie (20), Young Bros. (20). Total 139.
District for which islanders to be recruited—Cairns, Ingham, and Lower Burdekin.
Name of Group from whence to be introduced—New Hebrides.
Number of islanders returning, distinguishing men, women, and children—Males, 134; females, 18; children, 6; total 158.
Amount of wages paid to returning islanders within three months of departure—710*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*
Amount of money withdrawn by them from Government Savings Bank within three months of departure (exclusive of such wages)—519*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*
Port of departure—Brisbane.
Date of departure—14th January 1893.

(Signed) J. O'N. BRENNAN.
For the Immigration Agent.

The Under Colonial Secretary, Brisbane.

Name of Ship.	Islands to which returning.
"Empreza."	Tanna - 33
	Api - 7
	Meralaba - 1
	Pentecost - 6
	Santo - 1
	Maivo - 1
	Mallicolo - 10
	Paarua - 7
	Mota - 1
	Aoba - 18
	Aurora - 2
	Buka Buka - 5
	South Torres - 1
	Lacou - 23
	Ureparapara - 2
	Fortuna - 4
	Nina - 5
	Erromango - 6
	Sandwich - 3
	Vanna Lava - 1
	Ambrym - 6
	Aneiteum - 1
	Tegua - 1
	Sen - 4
	Motlap - 3
	Total - 152

"The Pacific Island Labourers Acts, 1880-1892."

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE.

(a) Name in full. 1, (a) Richard H. Symes, Government (b) Acting Medical Officer at the Port of (c) Brisbane, do hereby, in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Regulations made under the above Acts, certify that proper provision has been made for ventilation in the labour ship (d) "Empreza," and that the ship has on board a modern and approved medical work on the treatment of diseases, and also a proper supply of medicines, medical comforts, instruments, and other appliances necessary for diseases or accidents incidental to a sea voyage, and for the medical treatment of the passengers as required by the 12th section of "The Pacific Island Labourers Act of 1880."

2. And in accordance with Regulation 42 I append hereto a Report in detail upon the health of the returning islanders, specifying what islanders, if any, are suffering from disease, and directing generally the treatment to be followed with respect to them during the voyage.

(Signed) R. H. SYMES,
Acting Government Medical Officer.

(a) The number of islanders. I hereby certify that, as required by Regulation 42, I have examined (a) 159 islanders returning by the labour ship (b) "Empreza." As a result of my examination I have to report that all these islanders are in good health with the exception of those mentioned hereunder, who are suffering from the diseases set against their names, and should be treated during the voyage as directed hereunder.

Name.	Disease.	Treatment.	Whether Voyage would be Injurious or otherwise.
Poosee - - -	Fever - - -	- - -	Injurious.

(Signed) R. H. SYMES,
Acting Government Medical Officer.

No. 45.

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR W. L. DOBSON (TASMANIA) to the MARQUESS OF
RIPON.

(Received April 7, 1893.*)

Government House, Hobart,
4th March 1893.

MY LORD,

IN reference to your Lordship's Despatch of 9th December last,† I have the honour to transmit the enclosed letter, which is addressed to your Lordship by the Bishop of Tasmania, on the subject of the Kanaka Labour Question.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., (Signed) W. L. DOBSON.
Colonial Office.

Enclosure in No. 45.

KANAKA LABOUR.

Bishopscourt, Hobart, Tasmania,
January 21, 1893.

MY LORD,

IN answer to a letter from you dated December 9, 1892, requesting to know my views regarding the Queensland labour traffic in the Islands, I beg to send you the following communication.

Sir Henry Norman informed me a few weeks ago that he had forwarded to the Colonial Office a copy of the letter which I had written to him upon the subject, therefore I need merely to summarise here what I said then.

In connexion with the work of the Melanesian Mission I spent some nine weeks in the islands, including an area extending from the Northern New Hebrides up to Isabel in the Solomon Group. Within this space I think I may say that I landed on almost every island, and was in communication all the time with the clergy and teachers of the Mission.

I had started on my voyage with a distinct prejudice against the recruiting system, but everything I saw in the Islands tended to change my opinions.

I was struck at once by the important fact that there is no longer any such thing as ignorance of the details of plantation life. Every island, and I think I may say, every village possesses its returned labourers. Any attempt at deceit upon the part of the Government Agent would be simply laughed at.

When I discovered that, in addition to this, the natives were glad to recruit themselves, I began to see that the old condition of things had entirely passed away.

No kidnapping is ever attempted now; it is impossible. There is no ill-treatment on board the ships; there is a perfect understanding between recruiters and recruited. I spent some hours on board two labour vessels, and it was clear to me that the captain and the Government agent were almost nervously anxious to keep to the spirit of their regulations.

If it is asked why the islanders wish to leave their homes for Queensland and Fiji, my experience leads me to give the following reasons:—

Life on some of the wilder islands is anything but an ideal existence. The Malanta men, for instance, go away in hundreds, leaving behind them a country where fighting is ceaseless and cannibalism abounds everywhere.

On other islands, such as those in the Torres Group, water is very scarce; the natives suffer from horrible sores which often prove fatal. Queensland must be a bad place if it is worse than Malanta and some other islands, hardly, if at all, reached as yet by the Mission.

The Christian Natives are also impelled to leave their homes, though for different reasons. They have come to taste European food, and want more of it. They have had their eyes open to catch a glimpse of a larger world, and they want to go and see for themselves.

* This Despatch was received after the Blue Book was made up.

† No. 19.

These influences have undoubtedly tended to drain the islands of their population, but if the natives wish to go to work in a Christian country, I do not see why we should stop them.

It is also worth mentioning that the remarkable success of the Mission in checking infanticide, and abolishing war, must soon begin to redress the balance and make up in part for the lost population.

I notice that those who have had experience of the old days of kidnapping and abominable cruelty, cannot bring themselves to believe that there can be any permanent improvement in the recruiting system.

For my part, after spending several hours on board two labour vessels, and after seeing for myself how completely at home the natives were upon the ship, I could see no adequate reason for checking the traffic, except the sentimental one, that the natives ought at all costs to be restricted to their islands. There is a strange irony in the outcry that heathen Melanesians ought not to be brought into a Christian country.

Nor does the objection hold good that the mass of the labourers return home demoralised. The exceptions where no injury had been done them are too numerous to substantiate this. I personally noted many returned labourers among the teachers, and, to take an example, in one island alone, 14 out of 16 returned labourers had come back to school and worship, and were indistinguishable from their fellows except that they knew a little English.

Nothing in my opinion can long prevent close contact between the natives of the South Seas and our modern civilisation. Already the making of native weapons and cloths in some places is dying away because Birmingham supplies everything. If this contact between whites and blacks is not brought about by a well-regulated Government Code, it will come by the influx of traders in increased numbers. These men are not all bad as I can testify, but many of them possess little principle and are hard drinkers.

Upon the whole, I consider that as long as the regulations are strictly carried out (as I believe they are at the present time) there is mutual benefit to be derived from their action.

I believe the conscience of the Colonies has been at last awakened, and that increased thought is being given to the moral and spiritual, as well as physical, welfare of the islanders whilst they are in Queensland and Fiji.

I may remark that my experience only applies to recruiting for the above-named countries. I have seen something of the French system, and whilst I may have an opinion on this also, still I hesitate to give it, for it is not based on a sufficient experience.

Yours faithfully,
H. H. TASMANIA.

No. 46.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to ACTING GOVERNOR SIR W. L. DOBSON
(TASMANIA).

SIR,

Downing Street, April 11, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 4th ultimo,* transmitting a letter from the Bishop of Tasmania on the subject of the Polynesian Labour Traffic.

I request that you will convey my thanks to the Bishop for his communication.

The Officer Administering the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.

* No. 45.